

SENT VIA EMAIL OR FAX ON
Dec/20/2010

True Decisions Inc.

An Independent Review Organization
835 E. Lamar Blvd. #394
Arlington, TX 76011
Phone: (214) 717-4260
Fax: (214) 594-8608
Email: rm@truedecisions.com

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE OF REVIEW:
Dec/20/2010

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:
Inpt. Anterior diskectomy w/fusion and plating C6-7 los 1 day

DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR EACH PHYSICIAN OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO REVIEWED THE DECISION:
Board Certified Neurosurgeon with additional training in pediatric neurosurgery

REVIEW OUTCOME:

Upon independent review, the reviewer finds that the previous adverse determination/adverse determinations should be:

- Upheld (Agree)
 Overturned (Disagree)
 Partially Overturned (Agree in part/Disagree in part)

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

OD Guidelines
Denial Letters 11/22/10 and 10/12/10
Dr. 6/24/10 thru 11/29/10
MRIs 8/14/10 and 7/31/10
DDE 11/23/10
Medical Clinic 5/7/10 thru 5/18/10
X-Ray 5/5/10
Dr. 6/17/10

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

This is a male with a date of injury on xx/xx/xx, when a safety line hung on a trailer almost pulled him off when he was on top of a trailer as the driver drove way. He complains of bilateral radiating shoulder and arm pain with neurologic deficit in addition to increasing numbness and weakness in all four extremities. It does not appear that he has had any

conservative measures for his condition, other than pain medication and muscle relaxants. His examination 11/29/2001 reveals bilateral Babinski with several beats of clonus and a wide-based gait. He has a Lhermitte phenomenon with range of motion of the neck. An MRI of the cervical spine 07/31/2010 shows at C6-C7 a moderate disc protrusion, which compromises the thecal sac, with mild spinal cord compression. There is moderate spondylolytic compromised neuroforamina bilaterally. There is mild cord compression reported at this level. The provider is recommending an anterior discectomy, interbody fusion and plating at C6-C7. A DDE 11/23/2010 revealed a normal neurological examination with 5/5 Waddel's signs and found "multiple demonstrations of malingering behaviors"

ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF THE DECISION INCLUDING CLINICAL BASIS, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS USED TO SUPPORT THE DECISION

The anterior discectomy, interbody fusion and plating at C6-C7 is not medically necessary at this time. It is concerning that the DDE found a normal neurological examination and multiple areas suggestive of symptom magnification and malingering. The examination of the provider just a few days later showed some evidence of possible myelopathy. However, given the discrepancy between these two neurological examinations and overlay of possible malingering/symptom magnification, the requested surgery is not medically necessary at this time.

References/Guidelines

ODG "Neck and Upper Back" chapter

Decompression, myelopathy: "Recommended for patients with severe or progressive myelopathy with concordant radiographic evidence of central spinal stenosis".

A DESCRIPTION AND THE SOURCE OF THE SCREENING CRITERIA OR OTHER CLINICAL BASIS USED TO MAKE THE DECISION

- ACOEM-AMERICA COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE UM KNOWLEDGEBASE
- AHCPR-AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH & QUALITY GUIDELINES
- DWC-DIVISION OF WORKERS COMPENSATION POLICIES OR GUIDELINES
- EUROPEAN GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN
- INTERQUAL CRITERIA
- MEDICAL JUDGEMENT, CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED MEDICAL STANDARDS
- MERCY CENTER CONSENSUS CONFERENCE GUIDELINES
- MILLIMAN CARE GUIDELINES
- ODG-OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES & TREATMENT GUIDELINES
- PRESSLEY REED, THE MEDICAL DISABILITY ADVISOR
- TEXAS GUIDELINES FOR CHIROPRACTIC QUALITY ASSURANCE & PRACTICE PARAMETERS
- TEXAS TACADA GUIDELINES

TMF SCREENING CRITERIA MANUAL

PEER REVIEWED NATIONALLY ACCEPTED MEDICAL LITERATURE (PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION)

OTHER EVIDENCE BASED, SCIENTIFICALLY VALID, OUTCOME FOCUSED GUIDELINES (PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION)