



Medical Review Institute of America, Inc.
America's External Review Network

DATE OF REVIEW: January 18, 2011

IRO Case #:

Description of the services in dispute:

Repeat outpatient lumbar MRI without contrast

A description of the qualifications for each physician or other health care provider who reviewed the decision

This physician is board certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery in Orthopedic Surgery. This reviewer has also completed a fellowship in Spinal Surgery.

Review Outcome

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

Based on ODG guidelines, the request for the repeat lumbar MRI without contrast is not medically necessary.

Information provided to the IRO for review

Patient clinical history [summary]

The claimant is male who sustained a work related injury on xx/xx/xx. At that time, the claimant was in the area of oil field equipment and sustained a slip and fall type of injury. The claimant returned to work the next day. At that time, the claimant complained of neck, mid back, low back and right shoulder pain. The claimant related that immediately after the work injury he was informed he was having a stroke. The claimant went to the emergency room where x-rays were performed and evaluation was performed. Past medical history is significant in that the claimant had a compression fracture in his low back from an injury in xxxx. The claimant subsequently had an

MRI of the lumbar spine which showed a disc protrusion at L5-S1 with dessication at all of the lumbar discs. The claimant had an x-ray of the skull which was all the imaging studies. The claimant underwent designated doctor exams 3 times and had 3 impairment ratings. 1 impairment rating was at 29% as of 02/24/10, the other was 7% as of 03/16/10 and the final impairment rating was a 0% impairment rating for neuropsychiatric issues. The claimant complained of pain and is on pain medicine at this time. The claimant also continues to complain of psychological issues as well. The claimant has had transforaminal epidural steroid injections to try and relieve his symptoms. The claimant also had an arthrogram of his right shoulder. The claimant continues to complain of neck, shoulder, low back and psychological issues.

Analysis and explanation of the decision include clinical basis, findings and conclusions used to support the decision.

The request for a repeat MRI of the lumbar spine is not medically necessary. The claimant sustained a slip and fall on xx/xx/xx. The claimant was noted to be slightly disoriented at that time. The claimant went back to work and worked a 12 hour day the next day. The claimant was worked up with multiple imaging studies which showed degenerative changes of both the cervical and lumbar spine and of the right shoulder. The claimant did not complain of neuropsychological issues until approximately 10/08. This is clearly five months status post of injury. The claimant underwent approximately 3 months of massage therapy, physical therapy and special focus group and relaxation group therapy for this psychological condition. The post designated doctor exam performed by MD showed the claimant had no mental impairment at that time. The required medical exam on 10/28/10 again showed no impairment rating for the mental aspect. The claimant scored a 70 on the FP psychological score which is significant for a degree of symptom exaggeration. The claimant underwent a Millon clinical multi axis inventory/III which showed consistent with significant over reporting of symptoms. On the fear avoidance beliefs questionnaire the claimant was consistent with significant irrational fear avoidance beliefs. The claimant had an Axis I diagnosis of undifferentiated somatoform pain disorder and rule out malingering. Therefore, given the lack of any significant or progressive neurologic deficits and the evidence of possible somatoform disorder, the previous denials are upheld.

A description and the source of the screening criteria or other clinical basis used to make the decision:

Official Disability Guidelines, Online Version, Low Back Chapter.