

SENT VIA EMAIL OR FAX ON
Dec/30/2010

P-IRO Inc.

An Independent Review Organization
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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE OF REVIEW:
Dec/30/2010

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:
3 hours psychological testing

DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR EACH PHYSICIAN OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO REVIEWED THE DECISION:
Clinical psychologist; Member American Academy of Pain Management

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 11/8/10 and 11/24/10
Rehab 10/28/10 thru 11/15/10

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

Records show that "The patient is a male with a date of injury xx/xx/xx. There is a history of cervical and UE pain complaints following reported lifting injury. Treatment has included conservative care, injections, surgical treatment ACDF, work hardening, and chronic pain management program" previous to surgery. Current meds are Vicodin, Motrin, hydrocodone, and Skelalxin. Current request is for 3 hours of testing to rule out or establish candidacy for another CPMP. Testing is to include MMPI-2, BDI, BAI, and BHI-2. Both peer reviewers agreed that the testing was supported by ODG as reasonable, but wanted to negotiate for decreased hours.

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

It appears from the insurance peer review records that the only thing in dispute in this request is the number of hours of testing. It usually takes patients at least 3 hours to complete this battery of tests, and any less hours approved would make testing unfeasible from both an administrative and financial standpoint, since hand-scoring the MMPI is extremely time consuming and computer scoring is expensive. As such, request is considered reasonable and medically necessary.

ODG Work Loss Data, 2010, Texas, Mental Illness and Stress chapter
Psychological testing can be an extremely valuable method of introducing objectivity, credibility, and comprehensiveness into the diagnostic process...

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)