

# **INDEPENDENT REVIEWERS OF TEXAS, INC.**

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## Notice of Independent Review Decision

**DATE OF REVIEW:** 09/27/11

**IRO CASE NO.:**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:**

Item in dispute: Exploration, right total knee revision arthroscopy- with 3 day inpatient stay.

**A DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR EACH PHYSICIAN OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO REVIEWED THE DECISION**

Texas Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon

**REVIEW OUTCOME**

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

Denial Upheld

**INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW**

1. Clinical notes, 11/22/10 through 06/22/11
2. Radiograph of right knee, 05/13/11, 06/14/11
3. Previous utilization reviews, 07/18/11, 08/05/11
4. **Official Disability Guidelines**

**PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY (SUMMARY):**

The employee is a male who sustained an injury to his right knee. The clinical note dated 11/22/10 details the employee complaining of right knee soreness and pain that was noted to be exacerbated with prolonged standing. The employee stated that he had experienced swelling, popping and clicking was marked when going up and down stairs. Upon examination, the employee was noted to have tenderness upon palpation along with swelling. The employee was noted to have a positive Apley's, Drawer and McMurray's test at that time. The employee's adduction and abduction stress test were noted to be positive.

The clinical note dated 05/11/11 detailed the employee having previously undergone a right total knee arthroplasty approximately 2 years prior. The employee stated his knee

had been hurting since the operation. The employee described the sensation as simply loose inside his knee. Upon examination, tenderness was noted along the medial joint line. Patellar subluxation was noted. The employee was noted to be using pharmacological interventions.

Radiographs dated 05/13/11 revealed a normal appearing devices from the previous arthroplasty.

A clinical note dated 06/22/11 detailed the employee able to demonstrate 0 to 120 degrees of range of motion.

A bone scan dated 06/14/11 revealed a subtle horizontal rim of moderate high signal site of the articulation of the right knee arthroplasty tibial component. This may be due to hardware loosening. Moderate to minor osteoarthritis changes were noted in the axial appendicular skeleton elsewhere.

The two previous utilization reviews dated 07/18/11 and 08/05/11 were denials secondary to history of hypertension controlled with medications. Additionally, there was a question of potential infection within the affected knee itself.

### **ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF THE DECISION INCLUDE CLINICAL BASIS, FINDINGS, AND CONCLUSIONS USED TO SUPPORT THE DECISION.**

The documentation submitted for review elaborates the employee having previously requested a right knee revision and exploration with an arthroscopy with a three day inpatient stay. **Official Disability Guidelines** recommend an arthroscopy and exploration provided the employee meets specific criteria to include previous involvement with conservative measures, as well as inconclusive imaging studies. No documentation was submitted regarding the employee's previous conservative treatment. The bone scan revealed significant findings involving a rim of high signal at the site of the articulation involving the right tibial arthroplasty component. Given the specific request for an exploration, as well as a revision, this request does not meet guideline recommendations. As such, the clinical documentation submitted for review does not support the certification of the request at this time.

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

**Official Disability Guidelines**, Knee and Leg Chapter, Online Version.

**ODG Indications for Surgery™** -- Diagnostic arthroscopy:

Criteria for diagnostic arthroscopy:

1. Conservative Care: Medications. OR Physical therapy. PLUS
2. Subjective Clinical Findings: Pain and functional limitations continue despite conservative care. PLUS
3. Imaging Clinical Findings: Imaging is inconclusive.