



Southwestern Forensic  
Associates, Inc.

**REVIEWER'S REPORT**

**DATE OF REVIEW:** 03/03/12

**IRO CASE #:**

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

Right sacroiliac joint injection

**DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFICATIONS OF REVIEWER:**

M.D., board certified orthopedic surgeon with extensive experience in the evaluation and treatment of patients suffering back and lower extremity pain

**REVIEW OUTCOME:**

“Upon independent review, I find that the previous adverse determination or determinations should be (check only one):

Upheld (Agree)

Overturned (Disagree)

Partially Overturned (Agree in part/Disagree in part)

**INFORMATION PROVIDED FOR REVIEW:**

1. forms
2. case assignment forms
3. Certification page
4. Request for IRO
5. Review information and demographics
6. Letters of denial dated 02/03/12 with criteria and 02/08/12
7. request for preauthorization, 01/30/12, and appeal request 02/02/12
8. clinical notes, EMG study, 01/19/12, follow-ups 01/16/12 and 01/10/12
9. MRI scan of lumbar spine, 10/11/11, revealing bulging discs at L4/L5 and L5/S1
10. Carrier records, TWCC form 73, four entries between 09/22/11 and 12/06/11
11. Clinical notes, four entries between 09/22/11 and 12/06/11
12. Medication logs, multiple
13. Certificate of Medical Necessity, 09/08/11,
14. Medical records, 09/14/11, 09/15/11, and 09/22/11
15. Physical therapy encounter, 09/06/11,

16. Requestor records
17. Fax cover to 02/06/12
18. URA records

**INJURED EMPLOYEE CLINICAL HISTORY (Summary):**

The injured employee is a female suffering low back pain and bilateral lower extremity pain. She suffered the onset of low back pain while performing a function of her job requiring that she put wheels on endcaps. The date of injury was xx/xx/xx. She has developed right lower extremity pain with some left lower extremity pain, right more than left. She has been treated with activity modifications, medications, and physical therapy. An EMG study and nerve conduction study performed 01/19/12 were normal. An MRI scan of the lumbar spine on 10/11/11 revealed mild bulges at L4/L5 and L5/S1 with degenerative facet joint changes. She has a documented positive Faber's test. No other abnormalities or physical findings suggested sacroiliac joint dysfunction. The prior request for right sacroiliac joint dysfunctions was denied. Appeal was denied.

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

This individual has low back pain and bilateral lower extremity pain clearly more severe on the right than the left. There is a single physical finding suggestive of SI joint dysfunction. All other tests of right sacroiliac joint dysfunction were either negative or not performed. The documentation sufficient to conclude that right sacroiliac joint dysfunction is occurring has not been established. The prior denials of sacroiliac joint injection either for diagnostic purposes or therapeutic purposes were appropriate and should be upheld.

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

*(Check any of the following that were used in the course of your review.)*

- ACOEM-American 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 judgment, 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 national accepted medical literature (provide a description).

\_\_\_\_\_ Other evidence-based, scientifically valid, outcome-focused guidelines (provide a description.)