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IRO Certificate #4599

Notice of Independent Review Decision

DATE OF REVIEW: 10/11/13

IRO CASE NO.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE
11/13/12 Office visit and Radiologic Examination of ankle.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR EACH PHYSICIAN OR OTHER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER WHO REVIEWED THE DECISION
Physician Board Certified in Orthopaedic Surgery

REVIEW OUTCOME

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

Upheld	(Agree)
Overtured	(Disagree) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Partially Overtured	(Agree in part/Disagree in part)

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

Peer Review, M.D., 9/12/12
Medical Examination of patient, Independent Review, 10/06/14
Clinic Notes: includes: Patient History, Assessment, Objectives: 2012; Various, 2010-2006;
Evaluations: Orthopedic Institute: Initial P/T Eval, 8/05/99, Initial Orthopedic Eval, 8/04/99; Physical Examination/History: 8/02/99; Emergency Room Note: 1/10/07; Various Labs, 7/27/99; Appendix: 'Determination of Maximal Medical Improvement and/or Impairment Rating (Casualty Insurance), 1/10/07
ODG (Official Disability Guidelines)

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY SUMMARY

Patient sustained an on the job injury with a fall (xx/xxxx). He had ankle pain, in addition to a concussion, and a strain of the cervical spine. All of the above had thorough evaluations including neurosurgical and orthopedic experiences. It is my understanding from the notes that eventually his neurosurgical problems of neck and head were largely resolved and are not the ongoing question. Work ups during that period of time included plain films which I understood to be negative and ultrasound which was mainly for a clot, and an MRI showing a bone contusion of the talus. Apparently, because his ankle problems did not resolve, he underwent arthroscopy on 12/02/99 and was described as having a synovectomy. He was given a rating and released to work. The EMG and nerve conduction studies that were done were also negative.

Because the patient continued to have pain, he was followed medically over a long period of time. Eventually, it is reported, that he had significant arthritis in the right ankle. I understand that the question to be answered: is the arthritis related to his original injury.

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

Opinion:

I disagree with the denial of the services performed (11/13/12 office visit and radiologic examination of ankle).

ANALYSIS AND EXPLANATION OF THE DECISION INCLUDE CLINICAL BASIS, FINDINGS, AND CONCLUSIONS USED TO SUPPORT THE DECISION (cont'd)**Rationale:**

The subject radiograph shows and confirms progressive osteoarthritis as one could anticipate from severe post traumatic osteoarthritic change. There are no other reported incidents and his X-rays, at the time of injury, were negative as far as plain films go. However, there were changes in his MRI (10/19/99) consistent with the bone contusion. It's possible that he had a chondral injury that, subsequently, over time, degenerated. It is also possible that he had some articular cartilage injury at the time of his arthroscopy.

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

ACOEM-AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL
MEDICINE UM KNOWLEDGE BASE

AHCPR-AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE 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 & EXPERTISE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
ACCEPTED MEDICAL STANDARDS X**

MERCY CENTER CONSENSUS CONFERENCE GUIDELINES

MILLIMAN CARE GUIDELINES

ODG-OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES & TREATMENT GUIDELINES X

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 DESCRIPTION)

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