

Notice of Independent Review

REVIEWER'S REPORT

DATE NOTICE SENT TO ALL PARTIES: 12/17/12

IRO CASE #:

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

M.D., F.A.C.S., board certified orthopedic surgeon with extensive experience in the evaluation and treatment of patients who have suffered ankle fractures

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Removal of support implant

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)

<i>Primary Diagnosis Code</i>	<i>Service Being Denied</i>	<i>Billing Modifier</i>	<i>Type of Review</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Date(s) of Service</i>	<i>Amount Billed</i>	<i>Date of Injury</i>	<i>DWC Claim #</i>	<i>Upheld Overturn</i>
837.0			Prosp.					T03113000	Overturn
837.0	20680		Prosp.		11/13/12 – 11/29/12			T03113000	Overturn

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW:

1. TDI case assignment.
2. Letter of denial 11/13/12 and 11/29/12, including criteria used in the denial, and URA documentation.
3. Preauthorization peer review form – appeal. 11/29/12.
4. Operative report 09/22/12 – open reduction and internal fixation of right proximal fibular fracture w/syndesmotic screw.
5. Admission request 11/17/12.
6. Correspondence from injured worker.

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY (SUMMARY):

The patient is a male who suffered a proximal fibular fracture with diastasis of the right ankle (closed fracture dislocation of the right ankle) on xx/xx/xx. He underwent open reduction internal fixation on 09/22/12 utilizing a trans-syndesmotic screw fixation technique. The fracture is now healed, and the current request is for removal of the trans-syndesmotic screw holding the ankle mortise intact. The request has been denied; it has been reconsidered and denied.

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

The request to remove this trans-syndesmotic screw is not truly one based in a simple routine procedure. The fracture of the proximal fibula and diastasis of the ankle mortise is a Lauge-Hansen pronation external rotation stage IV fracture dislocation. The application of a trans-syndesmotic screw is performed to allow the anterior and posterior tibiofibular ligaments to heal at appropriate length, thus re-establishing the normal ankle mortise anatomy.

The removal of this screw prior to extensive weight bearing is the second stage of appropriate reconstruction. If the screw is allowed to remain in place after weightbearing has been allowed, it will either break or wobble free. This fatigue fracture of the metal is produced by the normal rolling motion that occurs at the distal tibiofibular joint with dorsiflexion and plantar flexion of the tibiotalar joint. The removal of the trans-syndesmotic screw is the second stage of appropriate reconstruction of the ankle as a result of this fracture pattern and its treatment. The request to preauthorize removal of this trans-syndesmotic screw should be approved.

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

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-Office 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)