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Notice of Independent Review Decision

DATE NOTICE SENT TO ALL PARTIES: 2/24/13

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

The item in dispute is the prospective medical necessity of code 37765 x3 sessions, phlebectomy, varicose vein treatments.

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

The reviewer is a Medical Doctor who is board certified in Internal Medicine. The reviewer has been practicing for greater than 10 years.

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)

The reviewer agrees with the previous adverse determination regarding the prospective medical necessity of code 37765 x3 sessions, phlebectomy, varicose vein treatments.

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

Records were received and reviewed from the following parties:

These records consist of the following (duplicate records are only listed from one source): Records reviewed: 7/13/12 to 10/19/12 office notes.

2/11/13 letter, 10/23/12 denial letter, 12/5/12 request for external review documents, 12/5/12 email, 11/1/12 letter, undated request for service to be

performed in office form for this procedure, Clinical guidance exchange screen print, 10/23/12 review, varicose vein treatment medical coverage policy, certificate of insurance, and 12/5/12 denial letter.

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

The claimant was a female who was evaluated initially on 7/13/12 for lower extremity varicosities. She complained of enlarged right lower extremity veins for 20 years which had increased in size. This was associated with pain, swelling, fatigue, heaviness, and warmth. She had tried lower extremity elevation, walking/exercise, and flexion/extension of the feet. Lower extremity dopplers showed significant anterior accessory vein reflux and no reflux in the small and greater saphenous veins. She was evaluated on 10/19/12 after having used compression stockings for 3 months without significant improvement in symptoms.

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

The member has lower extremity varicosities with failure of conservative therapy including compression stockings. However, lower extremity dopplers showed no reflux in the greater or small saphenous veins or perforating veins; only reflux was noted in the anterior accessory vein. There are not sufficient data published to support that phlebectomy is safe or efficacious when performed on the anterior accessory vein. Thus, 37765 x3 (stab phlebectomy) is not medically necessary.

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 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) van den Bos R, Arends L, Kockaert M, Neumann M, Nijsten T. Endovenous therapies of lower extremity varicosities: a meta-analysis. Journal of Vascular Surgery 2009;49(1):230-9

Rasmussen LH, Bjoern L, Lawaetz M, Lawaetz B, Blemings A, Eklof B. Randomised clinical trial comparing endovenous laser ablation with stripping of the great saphenous vein: clinical outcome and recurrence after 2 years. European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery 2010;39(5):630-5

OTHER EVIDENCE BASED, SCIENTIFICALLY VALID, OUTCOME FOCUSED GUIDELINES (PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION)
Milliman Care Guidelines, 16th edition