

IRO REVIEWER REPORT TEMPLATE -WC

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Notice of Independent Review Decision

[Date notice sent to all parties]:

08/01/2014

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

1. Second metatarsal head osteotomy and capsulotomy to second MP joint.

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

Board Certified Podiatrist

REVIEW OUTCOME:

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

Overturned (Disagree)

Provide a description of the review outcome that clearly states whether medical necessity exists for each of the health care services in dispute.

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

The patient is a female who reported an injury on xx/xx/xx. The mechanism of injury was not provided within the clinical documentation submitted for review. The patient's treatment history included the use of a CAM walker boot, assisted ambulation, and an Ace bandage wrap. The patient was evaluated on 04/23/2014. It was documented that the patient had right foot second toe pain that was described as severe by the patient. Physical findings included a normal foot structure with pain elicited with range of motion of the second metatarsal joint which contributed to decreased range of motion. The patient's treatment plan included a second metatarsal head osteotomy and capsulectomy to the second MPJ. The request was initially reviewed and received an adverse determination on 05/15/2014 due to lack of physical examination to support the need for surgical intervention and lack of

supporting diagnostic studies. The request was appealed and upheld on 05/15/2014. The patient was again evaluated on 07/09/2014. Physical findings remained unchanged from the previous documentation. The patient's care plan included rest and elevation, continued use of NSAIDS, and a CAM walker while awaiting surgical intervention. The patient was again evaluated on 07/23/2014. Physical findings remained unchanged. An x-ray taken at that appointment documented initial signs of avascular necrosis and an avulsion fracture of the proximal phalanx. An additional request for surgical intervention was submitted.

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

The clinical documentation submitted for review does support the need for surgical intervention at this time. The patient has had an extended history at this point of increasing pain that has impaired her ability to function and participate in activities of daily living. The patient was originally diagnosed with a fracture of the right second metatarsal. Standard conservative treatment for this type of injury is nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, immobilization, rest and elevation. Official Disability Guidelines support this surgical intervention when there is a failure to respond to non-surgical treatment and when the patient has persistent pain causing loss of function. The clinical documentation does indicate that the patient has been compliant with these treatments and continues to have painful symptoms. The most recent clinical note indicates that the patient underwent an x-ray that indicates evidence of necrosis secondary to an avulsion fracture of the proximal phalanx. Due to the patient's failure to respond to conservative treatment and progression and development of necrosis, surgical intervention would be supported. Therefore, the patient's second metatarsal head osteotomy and capsulotomy to the second MPJ would be medically necessary and appropriate.

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

ODG- OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES & TREATMENT GUIDELINES

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

Azar FM. Traumatic disorders. In: Canale ST, Beaty JH, editors. Campbell's Operative Orthopaedics. 11th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Mosby Elsevier; 2008:2737-88.

Whittle AP. Fractures of the lower extremity. In: Canale ST, Beaty JH, editors. Campbell's Operative Orthopaedics. 11th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Mosby Elsevier; 2008:3085-236.

Cleveland KB. General principles of infection. In: Canale ST, Beaty JH, editors. Campbell's Operative Orthopaedics. 11th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Mosby Elsevier; 2008:675-94.

Cleveland KB. Delayed union and nonunion of fractures. In: Canale ST, Beaty JH, editors. Campbell's Operative Orthopaedics. 11th ed. Philadelphia, PA: Mosby Elsevier; 2008:3529-74.