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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE NOTICE SENT TO ALL PARTIES:

Jan/28/2014

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

An excision of a scar, neuroplasty at the right long finger/nail

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

Board Certified General Surgery

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)

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

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW:

ODG - Official Disability Guidelines & Treatment Guidelines

Clinical note dated 07/01/13

Clinical note dated 04/11/13

Clinical note dated 06/21/13

Clinical note dated 08/14/13

Clinical note dated 08/20/13

Clinical note dated 10/02/13

Clinical note dated 11/22/13

Adverse determinations dated 11/21/13 & 12/18/13

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

The patient is a male who reported an injury regarding his right index finger secondary to a crush injury. The clinical note dated 04/11/13 indicates the patient presenting with the nail on the right middle finger growing. The patient stated the nail frequently gets caught in clothes as well as his gloves. The clinical note dated 07/01/13 indicates the patient complaining of tenderness at the distal portion of the right long finger. The patient was recommended for a surgical procedure at that time. The clinical note dated 08/20/13 indicates the patient continuing with pain at the right long finger. The patient stated the crush injury was a result of a box falling onto the patient's right hand. Upon exam, pain was noted at the nail bed of the long finger. The patient also reported signs of hypersensitivity at the nail bed site. Occasional numbness was noted at the distal fingers. The clinical note dated 10/02/13 indicates the patient having a nail deformity at the right middle finger. Pain was also elicited

with use of the finger. The clinical note dated 11/22/13 indicates the patient having tenderness and severe levels of pain at the distal portion of the right long finger. Numbness was noted distally to the index and long fingers. The affected area was noted to measure 8mm x 7mm x 4mm. The patient was recommended for a scar revision at that time.

The utilization review dated 11/21/13 resulted in a denial as no conservative treatment modalities were noted to have been performed. No documentation was provided regarding the patient's objective functional deficits associated with the affected area.

The utilization review dated 12/18/13 resulted in a denial as no objective clinical functional deficits were noted supporting the requested surgical intervention.

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

The documentation submitted for review elaborates the patient complaining of hypersensitivity at the right long finger and nail bed. A scar revision would be indicated provided the patient meets specific criteria to include significant functional deficits associated with the scar formation. No information was submitted confirming the patient's clinical findings in regards to the patient's functional deficits. As such, it is the opinion of this reviewer that the request for a scar excision with a neuroplasty at the right long finger and nail is not recommended as medically necessary.

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

MEDICAL JUDGEMENT, CLINICAL EXPERIENCE, AND EXPERTISE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED MEDICAL STANDARDS

ODG-OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES & TREATMENT GUIDELINES

other Evidence based, scientifically valid, outcome focused guidelines (provide a description)

Gauglitz GG, Korting HC, Pavicic T (January-February). "Hypertrophic Scarring and Keloids: Pathomechanisms and Current and Emerging Treatment Strategies". Mol Med (1-2): 113-125. doi:10.2119/molmed.2009.00153.

2.) Widgerow AD, Chait LA, Stals PJ, Stals R, Candy G (July 2009).

"Multimodality scar management program". Aesthetic Plast Surg 33 (4): 533-43.