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An Independent Review Organization

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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

DATE NOTICE SENT TO ALL PARTIES:

Sept/26/2014

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE:

Cambia 50mg powder

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

Board Certified Neurology

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.

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

The patient is a female who sustained an injury on xx/xx/xx. The patient reported loss of consciousness for several minutes with a laceration to the left forehead. Following the date of injury, the patient reported severe headaches, dizziness, and slightly slurred speech. CT studies were reported to be within normal limits. EEG findings from xx/xxxx were reported as normal. The patient did report improvements in 2012 per clinical reports. As of 05/16/12, indicated the patient's symptoms were essentially resolved with intermittent and rare headaches that were addressed with over the counter medications. There is a gap in the clinical documentation from May of 2012 until the patient was seen again on 07/02/13. The patient reported that her symptoms were now severe and poorly controlled with recurrent severe headaches up to twice per week. The patient denied any interval injuries. The patient's physical examination was within normal limits. The patient was assessed with post-concussion syndrome and started on a trial of Topamax as well as samples for Cambia. There were no further clinical reports until the patient was seen by FNP on 07/23/14. Per this report, the patient continued to report severe incapacitating headaches that occurred on a weekly basis located in the frontal left and right areas of the head as well as in the ocular regions and temporal as well as occipital regions. The patient described dizziness, nausea, phonophobia, photophobia, visual auras, and vomiting. The patient was utilizing Fioricet up to 3 times a week and Tramadol for more severe headaches. The patient reported having 2-3 migraines per week. The patient reported being unable to tolerate Topamax due to side effects. Cambia powder was not a listed medication as of this evaluation. Other medications included Zofran. The patient's physical examination was unremarkable. The patient was recommended to trial Depakote ER 250mg and further samples of Cambia were given to the

patient. Follow up on 08/20/14 noted improvement of symptoms with Cambia providing more benefit than Fioricet. Physical examination again was unremarkable. The patient was recommended to continue with Cambia for immediate relief of migraine headaches. The letter of medical necessity indicated that this medication had been more beneficial than Fioricet or Topamax.

The requested Cambia 50mg powder, quantity 9 with 2 refills was denied by utilization review on 09/12/14 as Voltaren was not recommended as a 1st line treatment due to increased risk profiles to include liver dysfunction.

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

The patient has been followed for an increasing amount of migraine headaches since her date of injury. More recently, the patient reported that she was unable to tolerate Topamax due to side effects and that samples of Cambia did provide better resolution of migraine symptoms than the use of Fioricet. Per guidelines, Fioricet is not a recommended medication for long term use. The patient also had no improvement with other anti-inflammatories per letter of medical necessity. In this case, it is this reviewer's opinion that there are unique circumstances present that would support the use of Cambia as medically necessary. The patient has failed other medications for migraine treatment to include 1st line Topamax as well as the use of Fioricet. Based on review of the clinical documentation submitted, there are no substantial risk factors for adverse effects that are known to be present with the use of Diclofenac to include liver failure. Given the efficacy obtained with the use of Cambia, it is this reviewer's opinion that medical necessity would be established for this medication at a quantity of 9 with 2 refills. Therefore, the prior denials are overturned.

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