



IRO REVIEWER REPORT – WC

DATE OF REVIEW: 12/08/15

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

TENS Unit for physical therapy of right ankle.

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

Board Certified in Orthopedic 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 or not medical necessity exists for each of the health care services in dispute:

- TENS Unit for physical therapy of right ankle - Upheld

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

The injured worker who sustained an injury to the right ankle on XX/XX/XXXX is status post Right distal fibular fracture nonunion takedown with ORIF using calcaneal autograft May 12, 2014 and a right ankle arthroscopic debridement and modified Brostrom procedure on August 3, 2015.

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

According to the AP the right ankle incisions healed without signs of infection with minimal swelling. At first there was decreased ankle range of motion with some calf

atrophy. Minimal pain levels were noted, at its best 0 out of 10 and at its worst 1/10. TENS units are not supported by evidence-based guidelines for treatment of disorders of the ankle and foot other than for chronic neuropathic pain which is not present. The ODG notes that it is not recommended as “there is little information available from trials to support the use of many interventions for treating disorders of the ankle and foot.” Therefore it is NOT medically reasonable and necessary.

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

- MEDICAL JUDGMENT, CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED MEDICAL STANDARDS**

- ODG - OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES & TREATMENT GUIDELINES**