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Notice of Independent Review Decision

Case Number:

Date of Notice: 02/18/2016

Review Outcome:

A description of the qualifications for each physician or other health care provider who reviewed the decision:

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Description of the service or services in dispute:

Nueyta IR 50mg #60

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)

Patient Clinical History (Summary)

The patient is a female. On XX/XX/XX, a letter was submitted noting the patient had pain that started in XXXX after an injury at work. The patient reported severe burning of the left upper extremity with pain rated at 7/10 worse with activity. It was reported that since her syndrome was known to be more than neuropathic pain, with diagnosis of CRPS, Nucynta was an excellent choice and she needed the ER for baseline pain and the IR for pain spikes throughout the day. Gabapentin was also described as a good medicine and it was noted she had been on Cymbalta for a long time which was known to help with her neuropathic pain and she needed to continue that medication as well. On XX/XX/XX, a letter was submitted, again noting that Nucynta was an excellent choice for the syndrome known to be more than neuropathic pain with CRPS.

Analysis and Explanation of the Decision include Clinical Basis, Findings and Conclusions used to support the decision.

On XX/XX/XX, a peer review report indicated that Nucynta ER 100mg #60 was not medically necessary and due to the nature of the drug, weaning was recommended. It was noted there was no mention of what opiates had failed as Nucynta was a second line choice, and the patient had been on this drug for a long time without real indication of functional benefit and pain had been rated at 7/10 not indicative of good therapeutic benefit for the medication. On XX/XX/XX, a peer review report noted that Nucynta 60mg was not medically necessary, as the patient had pain rated at 9/10 worse with activity, and the patient had been on the medication for an unstated length of time and with pain rated at 9/10, continued use of the drug was not supported.

In a study by Turk, et al, the authors stated "Overall, currently available treatments provide modest improvements in pain and minimum improvements in physical and emotional functioning. The quality of evidence is mediocre and has not improved substantially during the past decade. There is a crucial need for assessment of combination treatments, identification of indicators of treatment response, and assessment

of the benefit of matching of treatments to patient characteristics.”

The records do not document failure of lesser medications for this patient’s pain to consider this drug reasonable.

It is the opinion of this reviewer that the request for Nucynta IR 50mg #60 is not medically necessary.

A description and the source of the screening criteria or other clinical basis used to make the decision:

- ACOEM-America College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine um
- knowledgebase AHCPH-Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Guidelines
- DWC-Division of Workers Compensation Policies and
- Guidelines European Guidelines for Management of Chronic
- Low Back Pain Interqual Criteria
- Medical Judgment, Clinical Experience, and expertise in accordance with accepted medical
- standards Mercy Center Consensus Conference Guidelines
- Milliman Care Guidelines
- ODG-Official Disability Guidelines and Treatment
- Guidelines Pressley Reed, the Medical Disability Advisor
- Texas Guidelines for Chiropractic Quality Assurance and Practice
- Parameters Texas TACADA Guidelines
- TMF Screening Criteria Manual
- Peer Reviewed Nationally Accepted Médical **Literature** (Provide a description)

TURK, DENNIS C., HILARY D. WILSON, AND ALEX CAHANA. "TREATMENT OF CHRONIC NON-CANCER PAIN." THE LANCET 377.9784 (2011): 2226-2235.

- Other evidence based, scientifically valid, outcome focused guidelines (Provide a description)