



IRO REVIEWER REPORT – WC

DATE OF REVIEW: 02/24/16

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

MS Contin ER 60 mg. Quantity #90 with refills x 1 year
Morphine 30 IMG IR Quantity #120 with refills x 1 year

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

Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Board Certified in Pain Medicine

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:

- MS Contin ER 60 mg. Quantity #90 with refills x 1 year - Upheld
- Morphine 30 IMG IR Quantity #120 with refills x 1 year - Upheld

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:

The claimant sustained a work injury on XX/XX/XX when he was crushed by a hydraulic elevator. Records through the years indicate diagnoses of failed back surgery syndrome, chronic back and neuropathic lower extremity pain, post laminectomy pain syndrome, and chronic pain syndrome. The most recent diagnoses include intervertebral disc disorders with lumbosacral radiculopathy, chronic pain, chronic kidney disease stage 3, postlaminectomy syndrome, and long term use of opiate analgesics.

He apparently never returned to work following the injury. Current medications for pain management include, but are not limited to, include MS Contin and morphine.

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

It is my medical opinion, based upon the provided documentation, that the medications as indicated are not medically reasonable. The basis of this decision is that the claimant is currently taking 300 mg of oral morphine per day, which exceeds the Official Disability Guidelines recommendations of maximum morphine equivalent dosing by 300%. The risk of serious side effects is extremely high in this type of situation and the improvement in function does not justify this dosing of medication, based upon the provided documentation. It, nevertheless, needs to be recognized that it would be medically inappropriate and even potentially dangerous to discontinue this medication completely and abruptly. A weaning period of approximately three months would be necessary to reduce the claimant to a more appropriate, ODG-recognized dosing equivalent in an appropriate fashion.

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**