

True Resolutions Inc.
Notice of Independent Review Decision

Case Number: XXXX

Date of Notice: 7/9/2018 12:06:06 PM CST

True Resolutions Inc.
An Independent Review Organization
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IRO REVIEWER REPORT

Date: 7/9/2018 12:06:06 PM CST

IRO CASE #: XX

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE: 4 home health registered nurse services, 4 visits in 60 days, related to lower back injury

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

REVIEW OUTCOME:

Upon independent review, the reviewer finds that the previous adverse determination/adverse determinations should be:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overturned | Disagree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partially Overturned | Agree in part/Disagree in part |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Upheld | Agree |

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]: This case involves a now XX with a history of an occupational claim from XX. XX sustained a penetrating injury to the low back, XX XX XX. The diagnosis was listed as a hemorrhage. According to the therapy progress note dated XX, the patient had been performing self-care and self-care mobility with improved performance. XX was able to perform various reaching movements with little to no difficulty and was adequately able to perform self-care and had met all short-term goals. On physical examination, there was a penetrating wound to the back, with dressings removed at bedside and granulation tissue visible within the wound bed. The treatment plan included a recommendation for home health services given the patient's low back injury. However, the request was previously denied as there were minimal findings of specific objective functional limitations to necessitate in home treatment. The patient was noted to be performing self-care and self-care mobility with improved performance and had met all short-term goals in therapy. The patient was then evaluated on XX through home health. The patient was noted to be living with XX XX and was alert and oriented on evaluation. The patient's XX was currently assisting with activities of daily living, medication assistance, cooking, cleaning, and other tasks. The patient had a wound VAC placed into XX lower back for proper wound healing. XX had been referred to home health for skilled nursing visits, for teaching, wound care, and healing. Nursing would perform the procedure on XX, XX, XX, and provide patient education. Nursing visits were recommended to assess for skin breakdown, urinary tract infections, fall risk, or other findings related to the patient's injury. The request was submitted for an appeal.

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

Regarding home health visits, the Official Disability Guidelines state that home health may be indicated on a short-term basis following major surgical procedures or in-patient hospitalization, to prevent hospitalization, or to provide longer-term in-home medical care and domestic care services for those whose condition is such that they would otherwise require inpatient care. In this case, although the request was previously denied due to minimal functional deficits, the additional documentation indicated that skilled nursing visits were recommended in order to provide wound care and assessments regarding the patient's wound VAC. Although skilled nursing may be appropriate, the request sheet provided for review noted that the codes were submitted for G0299, G0300, G0151, G0152, corresponding to not only nursing visits but OT and PT as well. As noted previously, there were minimal significant functional deficits to support the entirety of the request.

Therefore, 4 Home Health Registered Nurse services, 4 visits in 60 days, related to lower back injury are not medically necessary, and the prior determination is upheld.

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

Official Disability Guidelines (ODG), Treatment Index, 16th Edition (web), 2018, Pain, Home health services.