

Envoy Medical Systems, LP
1726 Cricket Hollow
Austin, Texas 78758

PH. 512/248-9020
IRO Certificate #4599

Fax 512/491-5145

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

May 3, 2006

Re: IRO Case # M2-06-1121 -01

Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation:

Envoy Medical Systems, LP (Envoy) has been certified as an independent review organization (IRO) by the Texas Department of Insurance and has been authorized to perform independent reviews of medical necessity for Division of Workers' Compensation cases. Texas HB. 2600, Rule 133.308 effective January 1, 2002, allows a claimant or provider who has received an adverse medical necessity determination from a carrier's internal process, to request an independent review by an IRO.

In accordance with the requirement that the Division of Workers' Compensation assign cases to certified IROs, this case was assigned to Envoy for an independent review. Envoy has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. For that purpose, Envoy received relevant medical records, any documents obtained from parties in making the adverse determination, and any other documents and/or written information submitted in support of the appeal.

The case was reviewed by a physician who is Board Certified in Anesthesiology and Pain Management, and who has met the requirements for the Division of Workers' Compensation Approved Doctor List or who has been granted an exception from the ADL. He or she has signed a certification statement attesting that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and the injured employee, the injured employee's employer, the injured employee's insurance carrier, the utilization review agent, any of the treating physicians or providers, or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to referral to Envoy for independent review. In addition, the certification statement further attests that the review was performed without bias for or against the carrier, medical provider, or any other party to this case.

The determination of the Envoy reviewer who reviewed this case, based on the medical records provided, is as follows:

Medical Information Reviewed

1. Table of disputed services
2. Denial letters
3. Carrier summary 4/14/06

4. DDE 11/15/05, Dr. Wright
5. Report 1/13/06, Positive Pain Management
6. Physical performance test report 1/11/06
7. Letter 11/7/05, Dr. Stephenson
8. Records 2005, Health Works 2005
9. ER report 1/22/05
10. Initial evaluation 2/1/05, D. Perme
11. Initial evaluation 9/19/05, Dr. Bieler
12. Medical records, Correct Care Clinic
13. Letter from patient 8/30/05
14. Work status reports
15. Material re: Chronic pain programs

History

The patient is a 25-year-old who has had left knee pain since a ___ injury. Some swelling and fluid was reported on MRI evaluation. Physical therapy and injections have been performed. Depression has been noted. Based on the records provided for this review, no medications are prescribed. The patient was found to be at MMI on 11/25/05, with a 1% whole person impairment

Requested Service(s)

20 days of chronic pain management program.

Decision

I agree with the carrier's decision to deny the requested pain management program.

Rationale

Before considering a pain management program, more cost-effective care should be utilized. Oral antidepressant therapy, and a brief course of psychotherapy (no more than 10 sessions) are the first modalities that should be utilized with a patient such as this patient, to address depression and improve coping skills.

This medical necessity decision by an Independent Review Organization is deemed to be a Worker's Compensation decision and order.

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

If you are unhappy with all or part of this decision, you have a right to appeal the decision. The decision of the Independent Review organization is binding during the appeal process.

If you are disputing a decision other than a spinal surgery prospective decision, the appeal must be made directly to the district clerk in Travis County (see Texas Labor Code sec. 413.031). An appeal to District Court must be filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the decision that is the subject of the appeal is final and appealable. If you are disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision, a request for a hearing must be in writing

and it must be received by the Division of Workers' Compensation, Chief Clerk of Proceedings, within ten (10) days of your receipt of this decision.

Daniel Y. Chin, for GP

In accordance with Commission Rule 102.4 (b), I hereby certify that a copy of this Independent Review Organization (IRO) decision was sent to the carrier and the requestor or claimant via facsimile or US Postal Service from the office of the IRO on this 4th day of May 2006.

Signature of IRO Representative:

Printed Name of IRO Representative: Alice McCutcheon

Requestor: Positive Pain Management, Attn Heidi Wilson, Attn 972-487-1916

Respondent: American Home Assurance/ARCMI, Attn Raina Robinson, Fx 479-273-8792

Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation: Fx 804-4871 Attn: