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Physician Pharmaceutical Review (PPR) Case Study

Jurisdiction: Texas
PRIUM Case ID: 203900, Claim # ETEd04000274
Review Date: 01/26/2010

The patient is a 74-year-old female who has a long history of chronic pain in the neck and low back with a date of industrial injury on 03/29/94. As of May 2005 the patient had three previous lumbar surgeries and three previous spine surgeries including lumbar fusion. There have been longstanding questions about compensability due to generalized upper and lower back pain and the diagnosis of fibromyalgia. As of a 05/20/09 operative report the patient had postoperative diagnosis of pseudoarthrosis, previous L3-4 arthrodesis, lumbar spine stenosis L2-3, L3-4, epidural fibrosis, lumbar spinal instability L2-3 and L3-4 and no loosening of instrumentation. The treating physician confirmed in progress notes until the date of review that overall progress was unchanged and a continuation of the chronic pain medication management was the most appropriate route.

Pharmacotherapy:

1. Fentanyl 75mg/hour patch TD72 (\$1,263.17 monthly cost)
2. Hydromorphone HCL 4mg (\$52.04 monthly cost)
3. Lyrica 50mg (\$236.11 monthly cost)
4. Oxycodone HCL 15mg (\$49.47 monthly cost)
5. Polyethylene Glycol 3350 17gm (\$46.03 monthly cost)

This drug regimen incurs a monthly expense of **\$1,643.85**.

PRIUM's reviewing physician discussed the current and potentially future treatment regimen with the treating physician on 01/25/10. The patient has been treated by this physician for several years on essentially the same medication regimen. The patient is not a candidate for a spinal cord stimulator or morphine pump and the treating physician better understood from the dialogue with PRIUM's reviewing physician that a weaning process would be most beneficial for the patient with a goal for combination of home exercise and over-the-counter medications as necessary. Agreement was reached to attempt this weaning program over a 3-4 month period. PRIUM's NCM (nurse case management) services utilized during the subsequent months validated that the weaning was completed as of 04/29/10.

As of 10/31/11 (21 months after the discussion and 18 months after the weaning process was confirmed complete), the drug regimen as evidenced by drugs filled through the PBM has changed to:

1. Oxycodone HCL 15mg (\$77.56 monthly cost)

PRIUM's intervention resulted in a decrease of monthly costs from **\$1,643.85** to **\$77.56**. Since the date of the review, total savings accrued are **\$23,376.62** and will continue to accrue at least **\$1,566.29 per month**.