

IRO REVIEWER REPORT TEMPLATE – WCN

Amended Notice of Independent Review Decision

IRO CASE #:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE

Cervical epidural steroid injections.

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

Physician board certified orthopedic surgery

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.

<i>Primary Diagnosis Code</i>	<i>Service Being Denied</i>	<i>Billing Modifier</i>	<i>Type of Review</i>	<i>Units</i>	<i>Dates of Service</i>	<i>Amount Billed</i>	<i>Date of Injury</i>	<i>DWC Claim #</i>	<i>Uphold/Overtured</i>
723.1	62291	N/A	prospective	N/A	N/A	N/A		Not provided	upheld

INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW

1. Request for Independent Review by an Independent Review Organization forms – 1/26/07
2. Determination Notices – 11/2/06, 12/15/06, 12/19/06, 1/12/07
3. Independent Review Organization Summary – 1/30/07
4. Notice of Disputed Issue(s) and Refusal to Pay Benefits – 3/17/06, 5/5/06
5. Required Medical Examination – 3/16/06
6. Report from 12/14/06

IRO REVIEWER REPORT TEMPLATE – WCN

7. Report from not dated
8. Radiology Report – 10/17/05, 9/7/06
9. Progress Notes from 10/17/05-5/23/06
10. Follow-up Reports from 5/27/06-9/7/06
11. Follow-up Reports from 6/25/06-9/18/06
12. Follow-up Reports from 6/24/06-8/31/06
13. 10/6/06, 12/13/06
14. Records – 11/9/06-11/15/06
15. Records – 6/1/06-6/16/06
16. Letter to from– 2/1/07
17. Report – 8/30/06
18. Correspondence from 8/8/06, 8/21/06, 7/3/06
19. Correspondence – 6/12/06
20. Medicine Records – 9/25/06, 11/17/06
21. USA Letter – 7/25/06
22. Notification Form – 7/25/06

PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY:

This case concerns an adult female who sustained a work related injury. Records indicate that while pushing a box onto a conveyor belt, she hyperextended her neck and developed right sided neck pain down into her right shoulder. Diagnoses have included neck pain, cervical muscle spasm, cervical disc bulge, and right thoracic outlet syndrome. Evaluation and treatment for this injury has included injections, physical therapy, medications, and x-rays.

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

The literature does not support a role for cervical epidural injections in this case. Cervical epidural injections are not likely to improve this patient's chronic neck pain or provide the patient with lasting relief of her chronic neck pain. Further, no class I data exists to support cervical steroid injections for axial neck pain. The injections are not medically necessary for treatment of this patient's condition.

A DESCRIPTION AND THE SOURCE OF THE SCREENING CRITERIA OR OTHER CLINICAL BASIS USED TO MAKE THE DECISION:

- ACOEM- AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE UM KNOWLEDGEBASE
- AHCPR- AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH & QUALITY GUIDELINES
- DWC- DIVISION OF WORKERS COMPENSATION POLICIES OR GUIDELINES
- EUROPEAN GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC LOW BACK PAIN
- INTERQUAL CRITERIA
- MEDICAL JUDGEMENT, CLINICAL EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED MEDICAL STANDARDS
- MERCY CENTER CONSENSUS CONFERENCE GUIDELINES
- MILLIMAN CARE GUIDELINES
- ODG- OFFICIAL DISABILITY GUIDELINES & TREATMENT GUIDELINES
- PRESSLEY REED, THE MEDICAL DISABILITY ADVISOR
- TEXAS GUIDELINES FOR CHIROPRACTIC QUALITY ASSURANCE & PRACTICE PARAMETERS
- TEXAS TACADA GUIDELINES
- TMF SCREENING CRITERIA MANUAL
- PEER REVIEWED NATIONALLY ACCEPTED MEDICAL LITERATURE (PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION)

IRO REVIEWER REPORT TEMPLATE – WCN

**OTHER EVIDENCE BASED, SCIENTIFICALLY VALID, OUTCOME
FOCUSED GUIDELINES (PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION)**

van Tulden MW, et al. Outcome of invasive treatment modalities on back pain and sciatica: an evidence-based review. Eur Spine J. 2006 Jan;15 Suppl 1:S82-92.

Bridwell, KA. Textbook of Spinal Surgery, Lippincott, 1997.