

# IRO Express Inc.

An Independent Review Organization

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Notice of Independent Review Decision

**DATE OF REVIEW:** 8/24/08

**IRO CASE #:**

**DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE OR SERVICES IN DISPUTE**

Facet Block Injection

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

Orthopedic Surgeon

**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)

**INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE IRO FOR REVIEW**

OD Guidelines

Denial Letters 4/7/08 and 5/13/08

Medical Records from Dr. 11/5/02 thru 4/28/08

MRI's 4/1/03 and 8/6/02

Lumbar Spine 3/25/03

CT Spine and Lumbar Diskography 12/12/02

OP Report 7/23/07, 6/14/07, 10/30/06, 4/4/06, 11/11/04, 3/25/03, 12/11/02

**PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:**

The injured employee suffers from low back and leg pain after a work related injury. MRI shows L5-S1 stenosis (severe) and moderate L4-L5 left sided nerve impingement. An epidural injection was performed without relief. The patient has failed other lower levels of care, including PT. The epidural injection operative report was not included for review. The axial low back pain continues as well as bilateral leg pain.

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

The requested procedure is not medically reasonable and necessary for this patient. This patient's pain generators have not been adequately identified. The requesting surgeon did not comment on the potential left sided L4-5 stenosis as well as degenerative disc and facet disease as etiologic factors in this patient's pain syndrome. The surgical request is not reasonable until these factors are addressed and ruled out as pain generators.

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