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**DATE OF REVIEW:** 06/30/2008

**IRO CASE #:**

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

Fluoroscopic Guidance

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

This case was reviewed by a Texas licensed DO, specializing in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Osteopathy. The physician advisor has the following additional qualifications, if applicable:

ABMS, AOA Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: Pain Medicine

**REVIEW OUTCOME:**

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

Overturned

Health Care Service(s) in Dispute	CPT Codes	Date of Service(s)	Outcome of Independent Review
Fluoroscopic Guidance	77003	-	Overturned

**PATIENT CLINICAL HISTORY [SUMMARY]:**

Patient with chronic low back and right leg pain after falling 4.5 feet from a truck. The patient had a right wrist fracture that required surgery and a burst fracture at L1. Patient had 2 lumbar surgeries 3/07 that ultimately ended up with T10-L3 fusion with Harrington rod placement. The patient had temporary relief from the surgery with return of pain in the right leg. The patient had epidurals, physical therapy, work hardening, and individual psychotherapy. Dr. requested to see if epidural placement of spinal cord stimulator leads is possible due to the surgeries in the lower thoracic levels.

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

It is reasonable to proceed with requested fluoroscopy to see if the leads can be placed properly for spinal cord stimulator trial. The request is not for the formal trial, but to see if lead placement is possible due to surgeries at the ideal level of lead placement. Fluoroscopy is the only way to see if the lead placement is possible and accurate.

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

Spine. 2005 Jan 1; 30(1):152-60.  Lippincott Williams & Wilkins [Links](#)

**Spinal cord stimulation for chronic back and leg pain and failed back surgery syndrome: a systematic review and analysis of prognostic factors.**

**Taylor RS, Van Buyten JP, Buchser E.**