

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective January 1, 2002 and Commission Rule 133.305 and 133.308 titled Medical Dispute Resolution by Independent Review Organizations, the Medical Review Division assigned an IRO to conduct a review of the disputed medical necessity issues between the requestor and the respondent.

The Medical Review Division has reviewed the IRO decision and determined that **the requestor prevailed** on the issues of medical necessity. Therefore, upon receipt of this Order and in accordance with §133.308(q)(9), the Commission hereby orders the respondent and non-prevailing party to **refund the requestor \$650.00** for the paid IRO fee. For the purposes of determining compliance with the order, the Commission will add 20 days to the date the order was deemed received as outlined on page one of this order.

In accordance with §413.031(e), it is a defense for the carrier if the carrier timely complies with the IRO decision.

Based on review of the disputed issues within the request, the Medical Review Division has determined that **medical necessity was the only issue** to be resolved. The disputed ambulatory infusion pump and pump for water circulating pad were found to be medically necessary. The respondent raised no other reasons for denying reimbursement.

On this basis, and pursuant to §§402.042, 413.016, 413.031, and 413.019 of the Act, the Medical Review Division hereby ORDERS the respondent to pay the unpaid medical fees in accordance with the fair and reasonable rate as set forth in Commission Rule 133.1(a)(8) plus all accrued interest due at the time of payment to the requestor within 20 days of receipt of this order. This Order is applicable to date of service 2/19/02.

The respondent is prohibited from asserting additional denial reasons relative to this Decision upon issuing payment to the requestor in accordance with this Order (Rule 133.307(j)(2)).

This Order is hereby issued this 13th day of December 2002.

Noel L. Beavers
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

NLB/nlb

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

November 20, 2002

Rosalinda Lopez
Program Administrator
Medical Review Division
Texas Workers Compensation Commission
4000 South IH-35, MS 48
Austin, TX 78704-7491

RE: MDR Tracking #: M5-02-3057-01
IRO Certificate #: 4326

___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC) has assigned the above referenced case to ___ for independent review in accordance with TWCC §133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

___ has performed an independent review of the rendered care to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. In performing this review, relevant medical records, any documents utilized by the parties referenced above in making the adverse determination, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the appeal was reviewed.

The independent review was performed by a ___ physician reviewer who is board certified in orthopedic surgery which is the same specialty as the treating physician. The physician reviewer has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to the referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the reviewer has certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party to this case.

Clinical History

This 35 year old female sustained a work related injury on ___ when she began to experience progressive bilateral wrist and hand pain that eventually began to radiate to the forearms. The findings from MRIs of the right and left wrists performed on 10/25/01 were compatible with median nerve entrapment. On 02/19/02, the patient underwent a right wrist arthroscopic repair of triangular fibrocartilage and carpal tunnel decompression. Post surgery, the treating physician prescribed cold therapy including a water circulating pump, cold therapy wrap, and water circulating pad. In addition, a pain management system in the form of an ambulatory infusion pump was prescribed.

Requested Service(s)

Cold therapy including a water circulating pump, cold therapy wrap, and water circulating pad and a pain management system in the form of an ambulatory infusion pump.

Decision

It is determined that cold therapy including a water circulating pump, cold therapy wrap, and water circulating pad and a pain management system in the form of an ambulatory infusion pump were all medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

Based on the medical record documentation, the treating physician anticipated that the patient would experience a significant amount of pain and discomfort from the surgery. The use of an infusion pain pump and cold therapy is the most reasonable and medically indicated treatment for post-operative pain of this type. This treatment allows for continuous pain relief with the most limited amount of local reactions with speedier rehabilitation and convenience. Therefore, the cold therapy including a water circulating pump, cold therapy wrap, and water circulating and a pain management system in the form of an ambulatory infusion were all medically necessary.

Sincerely,