

MDR Tracking Number: M5-04-0291-01

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305 titled Medical Dispute Resolution - General 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 dispute was received on 09-30-03.

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(r)(9), the Commission hereby orders the respondent and non-prevailing party to **refund the requestor \$460.00** 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 MRI was found to be medically necessary. The respondent raised no other reasons for denying reimbursement for the above listed services.

This findings and decision is hereby issued this 11th day of December 2003.

Debra L. Hewitt
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

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 10-03-02 in this dispute.

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 11th day of December 2003.

Roy Lewis, Supervisor
Medical Dispute Resolution
Medical Review Division

RL/dlh

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DETERMINATION

MDR Tracking Number: M5-04-0291-01

November 26, 2003

An independent review of the above-referenced case has been completed by a chiropractic doctor. The appropriateness of setting and medical necessity of proposed or rendered services is determined by the application of medical screening criteria published by ____, or by the application of medical screening criteria and protocols formally established by practicing physicians. All available clinical information, the medical necessity guidelines and the special circumstances of said case was considered in making the determination.

The independent review determination and reasons for the determination, including the clinical basis for the determination, is as follows:

See Attached Physician Determination

___ hereby certifies that the reviewing physician is on Texas Workers' Compensation Commission Approved Doctor List (ADL). Additionally, said physician has certified that no known conflicts of interest exist between him and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for determination prior to referral to ___.

CLINICAL HISTORY

Available information suggests that this patient reports injury to her elbow and wrist on ___ as a result of a fall at work on a wet soapy floor. The patient presents initially to a ___ on 11/13/01 who eventually performed surgery on her right forearm. No specific medical/surgical reports are submitted from this initial evaluation and treatment. The patient later presents to her chiropractor, ____, who initiated physical therapy and referred for orthopedic evaluation with ____. Orthopedic report of 9/18/02 suggests persisting pain of several months duration with positive Tinel's, Phalen's and Cozen's signs with painful end range movement. No review of previous imaging appears to be made. Suspected TFC tear and annular ligament tear is noted.

MRI of the wrist and elbow is recommended in addition to EMG/NCV studies. These studies appear to be obtained 10/3/02.

REQUESTED SERVICE (S)

Medical necessity of MRI of 10/3/02 denied by carrier as unnecessary.

DECISION

There appears to be sufficient medical necessity and appropriate clinical rationale to support these requested imaging studies.

RATIONALE/BASIS FOR DECISION

Armstrong, TJ, Chaffin DB: Carpal tunnel syndrome and selected personal attributes. J Occup Environ Med. 1979; 21:481-486

Birkbeck MQ Beer TC: Occupation in relation to the carpal tunnel syndrome. Rheumatol Rehab. 1975; 14:218-221.

Cannon LJ, Bernacki EJ, Walter SD. Personal and occupational factors associated with carpal tunnel syndrome. J Occup Med. 1981; 23:255-258.

Posch JL, Marcotte DR. Carpal tunnel syndrome: an analysis of 1,201 cases. Orthop Rev. 1976; 5:25-35.

Hadler NM: Illness in the workplace: the challenge of musculoskeletal symptoms. J Hand Surg Am 10:451-456, 1985.

Phalen GS. Neuropathy of the median nerve due to compression beneath the transverse carpal ligament. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 1950; 32:109-112.

Phalen GS. The carpal tunnel syndrome. Seventeen years' experience in diagnosis and treatment of 654 hands. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 1966; 48:211-228.

Phalen GS. The carpal tunnel syndrome. Clinical evaluation of 598 hands. Clin Orthop. 1972; 83:29-40.

Hadler NM. Illness in the workplace: the challenge of musculoskeletal symptoms. J Hand Surg Am. 1985; 10:451-456.

Nathan PA, Meadows KD, Doyle LS. Occupation as a risk factor for impaired sensory conduction of the median nerve at the carpal tunnel. J Hand Surg Br. 1988; 13:167-170.

The observations and impressions noted regarding this case are strictly the opinions of this evaluator. This evaluation has been conducted only on the basis of the medical/chiropractic documentation provided. It is assumed that this data is true, correct, and is the most recent documentation available to the IRO at the time of request. If more information becomes available at a later date, an additional service/report or reconsideration may be requested. Such information may or may not change the opinions rendered in this review.

This review and its findings are based solely on submitted materials. No clinical assessment or physical examination has been made by this office or this physician advisor concerning the above-mentioned claimant. These opinions rendered do not constitute a per se recommendation for specific claims or administrative functions to be made or enforced.