

MDR Tracking Number: M5-04-1914-01

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 2-26-04.

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** 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.

The following disputed dates of service were withdrawn by the requestor on May 18, 2004:

6/20/03 (CPT codes 97032—2 units; 97010—1 unit; A4556—1 unit; 99080—1 unit)
6/24/03 (CPT codes 99211, 99080)
6/25/03 (CPT codes 99211, 99080)
6/27/03 (CPT codes 99211, 99080)
7/07/03 (CPT codes 99211, 99080)
7/09/03 (CPT codes 99211, 99080)
7/11/03 (CPT codes 99211, 99080)
7/16/03 (CPT codes 99211, 99080)
7/18/03 (CPT codes 99211, 99080)
7/21/03 (CPT code 99080)
7/22/03 (CPT code 99080)

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 hot/cold packs therapy, electrodes (pair), aquatic therapy, electrical stimulation, and office visits for 6/24/03, 6/25/03, 6/27/03, 7/07/03, 7/09/03, 7/11/03, 7/16/03, 7/18/03, 7/21/03, and 7/22/03 were found to be medically necessary. The respondent raised no other reasons for denying reimbursement for the above listed service.

This Findings and Decision is hereby issued this 17th day of June 2004.

Regina L. Cleave
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 dates of service 6/24/03, 6/25/03, 6/27/03, 7/07/03, 7/09/03, 7/11/03, 7/16/03, 7/18/03, 7/21/03, and 7/22/03 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 17th day of June 2004.

Roy Lewis, Supervisor
Medical Dispute Resolution
Medical Review Division
RC/rlc

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

May 13, 2004

MDR Tracking #: M5-04-1914-01
IRO Certificate #: IRO4326

The ___ 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 by the American Board of Orthopaedics, licensed by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners in (year), and who provides health care to injured workers. This is the same specialty as the attending 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 patient sustained a work-related injury on ___ when she was working as a researcher on a boat. She slipped and suffered a straining injury to the lumbar spine. She was initially evaluated and treatment included physical therapy services.

Requested Service(s)

Hot/Cold pack therapy, electrodes-pair, aquatic therapy, electrical stimulation and office visits for 06/24/03, 06/25/03, 06/27/03, 07/07/03, 07/09/03, 07/11/03, 07/16/03, 07/18/03, 07/21/03 and 07/22/03.

Decision

Hot/Cold pack therapy, electrodes-pair, aquatic therapy, electrical stimulation and office visits for 06/24/03, 06/25/03, 06/27/03, 07/07/03, 07/09/03, 07/11/03, 07/16/03, 07/18/03, 07/21/03 and 07/22/03 are medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The medical record documentation reveals that the treating doctor ordered a physical therapy regimen that included aquatic therapy, McKenzie exercises, electrical stimulation, and ultrasound at 3 times weekly for 4 weeks. Such programs have been shown to be effective for acute muscle strain and para-vertebral muscle spasms in the acute phase. The acute phase is usually defined as within the first ___ after injury. Therefore, the medical record documentation substantiates the medical necessity for hot/cold pack therapy, electrodes-pair, aquatic therapy, electrical stimulation and office visits for 06/24/03, 06/25/03, 06/27/03, 07/07/03, 07/09/03, 07/11/03, 07/16/03, 07/18/03, 07/21/03 and 07/22/03.

Sincerely,