

**THIS DECISION HAS BEEN APPEALED. THE FOLLOWING
IS THE RELATED SOAH DECISION NUMBER:**

SOAH DOCKET NO. 453-05-6596.M5

MDR Tracking Number: M5-05-0187-01

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 9-14-04.

The Medical Review Division has reviewed the IRO decision and determined that **the requestor prevailed** on the issues of medical necessity.

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 Neurontin capsules 300 mg on 7-8-04 were found to be medically necessary. The respondent raised no other reasons for denying reimbursement for the above listed services.

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 totaling \$40.19 on 7-8-04 outlined above as follows:

- In accordance with Medicare program reimbursement methodologies for dates of service on or after August 1, 2003 per Commission Rule 134.202 (c);
- plus all accrued interest due at the time of payment to the requestor within 20 days of receipt of this Order.

This Order is hereby issued this 13th day of April 2005.

Donna Auby
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

DA/da

Enclosure: IRO decision

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

April 7, 2005

Program Administrator
Medical Review Division
Texas Workers Compensation Commission
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100, MS 48
Austin, TX 78744-1609

RE: Injured Worker:
MDR Tracking #: M5-05-0187-01
IRO Certificate #: IRO4326

The Texas Medical Foundation (TMF) 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 TMF for independent review in accordance with TWCC §133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

TMF 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 TMF physician reviewer who is board certified in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation which is the same specialty as the treating physician, provides health care to injured workers, and licensed by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners in 1981. The TMF 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 TMF 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 65 year-old female injured her neck on _____. She has been treated with medication, surgery and epidural steroid injections.

Requested Service(s)

Neurontin capsules 300 mg

Decision

It is determined that there is medical necessity for the Neurontin capsules 300 mg

Rationale/Basis for Decision

Medical record documentation indicates this patient has received extensive medical treatment for her neck pain including medications and surgery. Neurontin is a non-narcotic medication that has been shown to be beneficial for controlling radicular pain in acute and chronic cases. The patient has been weaned off all narcotic medications, is independently performing her home activities of daily living and her pain is controlled with the use of this medication. Therefore, the Neurontin capsules 300 mg is medically necessary to treat this patient's medical condition.

Sincerely,

Gordon B. Strom, Jr., MD
Director of Medical Assessment

GBS:dm
Attachment

Information Submitted to TMF for TWCC Review

Patient Name:

TWCC ID #: M5-05-0187-01

Information Submitted by Requestor:

- Office Visit Notes
- Diagnostic Tests

Information Submitted by Respondent:

- Independent Medical Review
- Functional capacity evaluation
- Claims