



Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation
 7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1609

MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION
Retrospective Medical Necessity and Fee Dispute

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Requestor: (X) Health Care Provider () Injured Employee () Insurance Carrier	
Requestor=s Name and Address: Huffmeister Family Chiropractic Clinic 11045 Huffmeister Road Houston, TX 77065	MDR Tracking No.: M5-05-3183-01
	Claim No.:
	Injured Employee's Name:
Respondent's Name and Address: City of Houston, Box 42	Date of Injury:
	Employer's Name:
	Insurance Carrier's No.:

PART II: REQUESTOR'S PRINCIPLE DOCUMENTATION AND POSITION SUMMARY

Documents include the DWC-60 form, Explanations of Benefits, medical documentation and CMS 1500's. Position Summary states, "Service Med Nec per surgeon rec."

PART III: RESPONDENT'S PRINCIPLE DOCUMENTATION AND POSITION SUMMARY

No position summary was received.

PART IV: SUMMARY OF DISPUTE AND FINDINGS - Medical Necessity Services

Date(s) of Service	CPT Code(s) or Description	Medically Necessary?	Additional Amount Due (if any)
4-9-04 – 8-13-04	CPT codes 99213, 99214, 98940, 97110	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	0

PART V: MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION REVIEW SUMMARY, METHODOLOGY, AND/OR EXPLANATION

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code and Division Rule 133.308 (relating to Medical Dispute Resolution by Independent Review Organization), Medical Dispute Resolution assigned an Independent Review Organization (IRO) to conduct a review of the medical necessity issues between the requestor and respondent.

The Division has reviewed the enclosed IRO decision and determined that the requestor did not prevail on the disputed medical necessity issues.

PART VI: GENERAL PAYMENT POLICIES/REFERENCES IMPACTING DECISION

28 Texas Administrative Code Sec. 133.308

PART VII: DIVISION DECISION

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code, Sec. 413.031, the Division has determined that the Requestor is not entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute and is not entitled to a refund of the paid IRO fee.

Findings and Decision by:

11-30-05

Authorized Signature

Typed Name

Date of Findings and Decision

PART VIII: YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST JUDICIAL REVIEW

Appeals of medical dispute resolution decisions and orders are procedurally made directly to a district court in Travis County [see Texas Labor Code, Sec. 413.031(k), as amended and effective Sept. 1, 2005]. An appeal to District Court must be filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the decision that is the subject of the appeal is final and appealable. The Division is not considered a party to the appeal.

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

November 22, 2005

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

RE: Claim #:
Injured Worker:
MDR Tracking # : M5-05-3183-01
IRO Certificate #: IRO4326

TMF Health Quality Institute (TMF) has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has assigned the above referenced case to TMF for independent review in accordance with DWC Rule §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 matched peer with the treating health care professional. This case was reviewed by a health care professional licensed in Chiropractic Medicine. The TMF physician reviewer has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and the provider, the injured employee, the injured employee's employer, the injured employee's insurance carrier, the utilization review agent, or any of the treating doctors or insurance carrier health care providers who reviewed the case for decision before referral to the IRO. 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 was injured on the job on____. He had been evaluated by different surgeons at that time and had lumbar spine surgery in 1997. He also had cervical spine surgery in 2003. The patient was then seen by a neurological surgeon on 02/16/2004. This doctor did an evaluation and recommended chiropractic care and therapy.

Requested Service(s)

Office visits, chiropractic manipulations, and therapeutic exercises provided from 04/09/2004 through 08/13/2004.

Decision

It is determined that the office visits, chiropractic manipulations, and therapeutic exercises provided from 04/09/2004 through 08/13/2004 were not medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The medical record documentation does not substantiate the medical necessity for the specific services that were rendered. There are no national treatment guidelines that allow for this type of treatment almost 10 years after the date of the injury.

This decision by the IRO is deemed to be a DWC decision and order.

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

If you are unhappy with all or part of this decision, you have the right to appeal the decision. The decision of the Independent Review Organization is binding during the appeal process.

If you are disputing the decision (other than a spinal surgery prospective decision), the appeal must be made directly to a district court in Travis County (see Texas Labor Code 413.031). An appeal to District Court must be filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the decision that is the subject of the appeal is final and appealable. If you are disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision, a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the Division of Workers' Compensation, Chief Clerk of Proceedings, within ten (10) days of your receipt of this decision.

This decision is deemed received by you 5 (five) days after it was mailed or the date of fax (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.5(d)). A request for hearing and a **copy of this decision** must be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceeding/Appeals Clerk, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation, P. O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744, Fax: 512-804-4011.

The party appealing this decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in this dispute.

Sincerely,

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