

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

July 30, 2002

RE: MDR Tracking #: M2-02-0751-01
IRO Certificate #: 4326

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 Rule §133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

___ has performed an independent review of the proposed 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 anesthesiology 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 56 year old female sustained a work-related injury on ___ when she bent down to pull a box and felt pain in her lower back. The patient has undergone physical therapy as well as epidural steroid injections. The treating physician has recommended that the patient undergo Botox chemodenervation injections with EMG guidance x 8.

Requested Service(s)

Botox injections with EMG guidance x 8.

Decision

It is determined that the Botox injections with EMG guidance x 8 are medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

Botox injections for low back pain are common procedures performed at pain centers throughout the country. Their effectiveness has been proven in a randomized, double blind study. Reference: Neurology 2001, May 22; 56(10): 1290-3, Botulism toxin A and chronic low back pain: a randomized, double-blind study, Foster L,

Clapp L, Erickson M, Jabbari B. It is necessary to have EMG guidance for accurate placement and it is a common technique. In addition, since patients can develop antibodies to Botox (and subsequent resistance), it is better to inject more muscle groups at one time rather than splitting the injections into groups. Therefore, it is determined that the Botox injections with EMG guidance x 8 are medically necessary.

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

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of the decision and has a right to request a hearing.

If disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **10** (10) days of your receipt of this decision (20 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5 (c)).

If disputing other prospective medical necessity (preauthorization) decisions a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20** (twenty) days of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin Code 148.3).

This Decision is deemed received by you 5 (five) days after it was mailed (28 Tex. Admin Code 102.4(h) or 102.5(d)). A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, P.O. Box 40669, Austin, Texas, 78704-0012. **A copy of this decision should be attached to the request.**

The party appealing the decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute (Commission Rule 133.308 (t)(2)).

Sincerely,