

## NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

**Date:** May 7, 2003

**RE: MDR Tracking #:** M2-03-0196-01  
**IRO Certificate #:** 5242

\_\_\_ 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 an anesthesia and pain management physician reviewer who is board certified in anesthesia and pain management. The anesthesia and pain management 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 is a sixty-nine year old claimant who is status post two level lumbar fusion. The surgeries were of minimal benefit and the claimant has had injection procedures previously that were also of no benefit. The doctor alleges numerous diagnoses and is requesting sacroiliac joint and facet injections.

### **Requested Service(s)**

Bilateral lumbar facet injections and bilateral sacroiliac joint injections.

### **Decision**

I agree with previous reviewers in the denial that the requested procedures are not medically necessary.

### **Rationale/Basis for Decision**

Lumbar facet injections and bilateral sacroiliac joint injections are neither reasonable nor necessary. The physical exam is totally non-specific since the claimant is literally tender everywhere. There has been a fusion at L4 through S1 so there is no indication for injecting facets at those levels since the facets are fused. A facet injection is a diagnostic measure and performing facet injections along with sacroiliac joint injections negate the diagnostic value of the facet injections. I also agree with the previous reviewers that the claimant's symptoms are inconsistent with facet and sacroiliac pain.

Since the doctor alleges the presence of radicular pain and he also alleges an abnormal electromyogram involving multiple motor groups. I would recommend denial of any additional injection procedures due to the claimant's age, duration of injury, and failure of previous modalities.

### **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** (ten) 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)).

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