

April 15, 2003

Re: Medical Dispute Resolution  
MDR #: M2-03-0630-01  
IRO Certificate #: 5055

Dear

In accordance with the requirement for TWCC to randomly assign cases to IROs, TWCC assigned your case to \_\_\_ for an independent review. \_\_\_ has performed an independent review of the medical records to determine medical necessity. In performing this review, \_\_\_ reviewed relevant medical records, any documents provided by the parties referenced above, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the dispute.

The independent review was performed by a matched peer with the treating health care provider. Your case was reviewed by a physician who is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Clinical History:

This 50-year-old female claimant injured her cervical spine and head while on her job on \_\_\_\_. She was initially treated conservatively, but eventually underwent surgical intervention of the cervical spine, which resulted in a two-level fusion. She progressed well following surgery, but in late 2001 had complaints of pain in the lumbar spine.

She saw multiple physicians, including chiropractors. An evaluation dated 08/01/02 indicated ongoing complaints of lumbar pain with a diagnosis of lumbar discogenic pain, bilateral lumbar facet syndrome, myofascial pain syndrome, and cervical discogenic pain post cervical fusion.

Disputed Services:

Three cervical epidural steroid injections.

Decision:

The reviewer agrees with the determination of the insurance carrier. The reviewer is of the opinion that the cervical epidural steroid injections are not medically necessary in this case.

Rationale for Decision:

The records presented indicate some confusion over whether the injections are for the cervical spine or the lumbar spine. The requested cervical ESI's do not appear to be clinically indicated.

There is not evidence of radiculopathy of the bilateral upper extremities. Also, overall, the subjective complaints of pain are not an indication per se for the requested series of three ESI's.

I am the Secretary and General Counsel of \_\_\_ and I certify that the reviewing physician in this case has certified to our organization that there are no known conflicts of interest that exist between him and any of the treating physicians or other health care providers or any of the physicians or other health care providers who reviewed this care for determination prior to referral to the Independent Review Organization.

We are simultaneously forwarding copies of this report to the payor and the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission. This decision by \_\_\_ is deemed to be a Commission decision and order.

### **YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING**

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of this 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 ten (10) days** of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5©).

**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 twenty (20) days** of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 148.3).

This Decision is deemed received by you **five (5) days** after it was mailed (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.4(h) or 102.5 (d)). A request for a hearing should be sent to:

Chief Clerk of Proceedings  
Texas Workers' Compensation Commission  
P.O. Box 40669  
Austin, TX 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.

I hereby verify that a copy of this Independent Review Organization (IRO) Decision was sent to the carrier, the requestor and claimant via facsimile or U.S. Postal Service from the office of the IRO on April 15, 2003

Sincerely,