

**THIS DECISION HAS BEEN APPEALED. THE
FOLLOWING IS THE RELATED SOAH DECISION NUMBER:
SOAH DOCKET NO. 453-03-3595.M2**

April 26, 2003

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

RE: MDR Tracking #: M2-03-0771-01

___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). ___ IRO Certificate Number is 5348. Texas Worker's Compensation Commission (TWCC) Rule §133.308 allows for a claimant or provider to request an independent review of a Carrier's adverse medical necessity determination. TWCC assigned the above-reference case to ___ for independent review in accordance with this Rule.

___ has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine whether or not the adverse determination was appropriate. Relevant medical records, documentation provided by the parties referenced above and other documentation and written information submitted regarding this appeal was reviewed during the performance of this independent review.

This case was reviewed by a practicing and licensed chiropractor on the ___ external review panel. The ___ chiropractor reviewer signed a statement certifying that no known conflicts of interest exist between this chiropractor and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed this case for a determination prior to the referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the ___ chiropractor reviewer certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party in this case.

Clinical History

This case concerns a 52 year-old male who was injured on ___ while lifting and carrying doors. A MRI performed on 4/26/00 revealed a L4-5 anular tear and a L5-S1 anular tear with disc protrusion. A lumbar myelogram also revealed a mild extradural defect at L4-5. An EEG revealed evidence of right L5 motor radiculopathy and chronic left L5 radiculopathy. The patient's symptoms include lower back pain with radiation down both thighs to his knees. He has been treated with epidural steroid injections, medications, occupational therapy and 20 sessions of chronic pain management.

Requested Services

Chronic Pain Management Program – 10 Additional Sessions.

Decision

The Carrier's denial of authorization for the requested services is upheld.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The ___ chiropractor reviewer indicated that this patient is a 52 year-old male who sustained a work-related back injury on ___. The ___ chiropractor reviewer noted that the patient's treatment has included 20 sessions of chronic pain management. The ___ chiropractor reviewer explained that the available medical records do not document the rationale behind requesting an additional 10 sessions of chronic pain management services for him. The ___ chiropractor

reviewer indicated that there is no evidence that this patient's condition cannot be treated with home exercises and/or standard chiropractic therapy at this time. Therefore, the ___ physician consultant concluded that the requested 10 additional sessions of a chronic pain management program are not medically necessary for treatment of this patient's condition at this time.

This decision 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 (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 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. (Commission Rule 133.308(t)(2)).

Sincerely,

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 this 26th day of April 2003.