

MDR Tracking Number: M2-03-1085-01
IRO Certificate# 5259

July 11, 2003

An independent review of the above-referenced case has been completed by a medical physician [board certified] in neurological surgery. The appropriateness of setting and medical necessity of proposed or rendered services is determined by the application of medical screening criteria published by ____, or by the application of medical screening criteria and protocols formally established by practicing physicians. All available clinical information, the medical necessity guidelines and the special circumstances of said case was considered in making the determination.

The independent review determination and reasons for the determination, including the clinical basis for the determination, is as follows:

See Attached Physician Determination

___ hereby certifies that the reviewing physician is on Texas Workers' Compensation Commission Approved Doctor List (ADL). Additionally, said physician has certified that no known conflicts of interest exist between him and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for determination prior to referral to ___.

CLINICAL HISTORY

___ is a 46 year old male who was working at ___ on ____. He apparently injured himself on the assembly line when he was working with a hoist that caused his neck to snap backwards. Subsequently, he developed sharp pain in the neck, shoulder, and left arm with numbness in his first and second fingers of his left hand. MRI (3-20-01) showed a small disc protrusion at C5-6. Surgery (anterior cervical fusion) was recommended by ___ and was approved approximately one year ago. The patient has undergone conservative management since.

REQUESTED SERVICE (S)

Medical necessity of proposed anterior cervical disectomy and fusion with plates and screws

DECISION

Deny requested services.

RATIONALE/BASIS FOR DECISION

Latest MRI is over two years old, and pathology is minimal. No current EMG.

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) calendar days of your receipt of this decision (20 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 **20** (twenty) calendar 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 or the date of fax (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.4(h) or 102.5(d)). A request for a hearing and a **copy of this decision** must be sent to:

Chief Clerk of Proceedings/Appeals Clerk
Texas Workers' Compensation Commission
P.O. Box 17787
Austin, Texas 78744

Or fax the request to (512) 804-4011. A copy of this decision must be attached to the request.

The party appealing the decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to the opposing party involved in the dispute.

In accordance with Commission Rule 102.4(h), 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 14th day of July 2003.