



Texas Medical Foundation

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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

August 19, 2004

Requestor

RS Medical
Attn: Joe Basham
P.O. Box 872650
Vancouver, WA 98687-2650

Respondent

City of San Antonio
Attn: Robert Josey
P.O. Box 162443
Austin, TX 78716

RE: Injured Worker:
MDR Tracking #: M2-04-1534-01
IRO Certificate #: IRO4326

The Texas Medical Foundation (TMF) 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 TMF for independent review in accordance with TWCC Rule §133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

TMF 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 TMF physician reviewer who is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation, by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, licensed by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners (TSBME) in 1979, and who provides health care to injured workers. This is the same specialty as the treating physician. The TMF 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 TMF 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 patient injured her left knee on 05/__/02 and continues to have pain and muscle spasm. Her diagnoses are chondromalacia patella, primary osteoarthritis and joint pain and the doctor has ordered the purchase of a neuromuscular stimulator for use on her knee.

Requested Service(s)

The proposed purchase of an RS4i sequential, 4 channel combination interferential and muscle stimulator.

Decision

It has been determined the medical necessity of the RS4i sequential is substantiated.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

Medical record documentation does indicate the necessity for the RS4i sequential as it has provided pain relief for this patient. It is beneficial in improving her quality of life and daily activities of daily living.

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** (ten) calendar days of your receipt of this decision (28 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) calendar days of your receipt of this decision (28 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5(c)).

This decision is deemed received by you 5 (five) days after it was mailed or the date of fax (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.5(d)). A request for 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, Fax: 512-804-4011.

The party appealing this decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in this dispute.

Sincerely,

Gordon B. Strom, Jr., MD
Director of Medical Assessment

cc: Program Administrator, Medical Review Division, TWCC

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 19th day of August, 2004.

Signature of IRO Employee:

Printed Name of IRO Employee: