**NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DETERMINATION**

MDR Tracking Number: M2-04-0148-01

October 27, 2003

An independent review of the above-referenced case has been completed by a medical physician board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation. 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 ___.

Notice of Independent Review Determination

CLINICAL HISTORY
51 year old female with injury to neck and low back on ___. She fell 8-10 feet. L4-5 laminectomy, medial facetectomy, foramintomy and fusion on 2/14/00. Diskectomy and fusion at C5-6, C6-7 7/19/00. She was given MMI on 12/17/01 with whole person impairment rating of 24% before which she participated in extensive multiple sessions of exercise and therapeutic modality based physical therapy.

REQUESTED SERVICE(S)
Purchase of an RS4i sequential stimulator 4-channel combination interferential and muscle stimulator unit.

DECISION
Uphold previous denial.

RATIONALE/BASIS FOR DECISION
According to peer-reviewed literature by Dr. R.E. Winsor et al. in 1993, treatment guidelines outlined by Jeffrey L. Young, MD in the *Low Back Pain Handbook*, 1997, the Quebec Task Force, *Supplement to Spine*, 1997 & Drs. D. Weber and R. Brown in Braddom's text *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, therapeutic electricity, including interferential electrical stimulation, is best used during the acute phase of rehabilitation. Electrical therapies are considered adjunctive treatments, rather than primarily curative interventions.

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 31st day of October 2003.