

December 23, 2003

MDR #: M2-04-0522-01  
IRO Certificate No.: 5055

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 trained in Neurological Surgery.

**Information Provided for Review:**

Correspondence.  
H&P and Office Notes  
Physical Therapy Notes  
Operative Reports.  
Radiology Reports.

**Clinical History:**

This male claimant suffers with bilateral upper extremity pain and sensory symptoms resulting from a work-related injury on \_\_\_\_. He has undergone two imaging studies of the cervical spine. The initial one was in the form of an MRI of the cervical region on \_\_\_\_ (post injury) and demonstrated changes of spondylosis primarily affecting C4-5 and C5-6. A subsequent CT of the cervical spine demonstrated similar spondylitic changes in the absence of a frank disc herniation. There was no evidence of spinal cord or nerve root compromise. Notation was made of no foraminal stenosis.

**Disputed Services:**

MRI of the cervical spine

**Decision:**

The reviewer agrees with the determination of the insurance carrier and is of the opinion that the MRI in dispute is not medically necessary in this case.

**Rationale:**

The decision is based on review of the records provided and the lack of objective focal neurologic deficits. In the presence of the findings of prior imaging studies and no evidence of objective neurologic deficits in the form of either radiculopathy, myelopathy, or peripheral neuropathy, the reviewer could not justify performing another imaging study in the form of MRI scan of the cervical spine.

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, MS-48  
7551 Metro Center Dr., Ste. 100  
Austin, TX 78744-1609

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 December 23, 2003