

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DETERMINATION

MDR Tracking Number: M2-04-0728-01
IRO Certificate No.: 5259

February 3, 2004

An independent review of the above-referenced case has been completed by a medical physician board certified in family practice. 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

Apparently, ___ sustained a left arm injury at work on ____. No clinical records concerning the initial evaluation and treatment were enclosed. Notation is made regarding treatments to include medications, chiropractic, therapy, acupuncture, and a muscle stimulator. Detailed documentation is not available until ___ clinical notes for 2003. Also, there is mention of a referral to a pain specialist, ___ but it is unclear if he saw the patient.

REQUESTED SERVICE (S)

Purchase of an interferential muscle stimulator.

DECISION

Uphold prior denial.

RATIONALE/BASIS FOR DECISION

This device is typically used as an adjunctive therapy in the acute phase of treatment. No accepted peer review literature or generally accepted guidelines support the use of a muscle stimulator for chronic arm pain.

This view is standard of care and supported by CMS and NASS guidelines as well as the Philadelphia Panel Study. Furthermore, no documentation is enclosed to substantiate a decrease in medications or therapy, an increase in function or work status, or an extraordinary circumstance to warrant the use of this device for indefinite use. Therefore, the prior denial is upheld.

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 6th day of February 2004.