

MEDICAL REVIEW OF TEXAS

3402 Vanshire Drive

Austin, Texas 78738

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NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DETERMINATION

TWCC Case Number:	
MDR Tracking Number:	M2-04-0851-01
Name of Patient:	
Name of URA/Payer:	Traveler's Indemnity Company
Name of Provider: (ER, Hospital, or Other Facility)	
Name of Physician: (Treating or Requesting)	Paul Pace, MD

March 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 Texas Medical Foundation, 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

Medical Review of Texas (MRT) 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 MRT.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Lifshen, MD
Medical Director

cc:
Paul Pace, MD
Texas Workers Compensation Commission

RE: claimant

CLINICAL HISTORY

_____ apparently sustained a work related injury diagnosed as carpal tunnel syndrome on 8/95. A prescription to use a muscle stimulator dated 10/01/03 for carpal tunnel syndrome is submitted as was a request to purchase the device on 11/24/03. Because of symptoms over the past year, another EMG was performed that was normal. Further testing revealed degenerative disc disease in her cervical spine.

REQUESTED SERVICE(S)

Purchase of an interferential muscle stimulator.

DECISION

Denied.

RATIONALE/BASIS FOR DECISION

The patient's original injury of carpal tunnel syndrome was on 8/95 and a muscle stimulator was requested for purchase for the diagnosis on 12/24/03. This type of device is generally used as an adjunctive therapy in the acute phase of treatment. This view is supported by accepted guidelines and organizations such as the C.M.S., N.A.S.S., and the N.I.H. No peer review literature or guidelines support the use of this type of device for the treatment for chronic symptoms from carpal tunnel syndrome. Therefore, the request is denied.

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 3rd day of March, 2004.

Signature of IRO Employee: _____

Printed Name of IRO Employee: Cindy Mitchell