

September 28, 2004

MDR Tracking #: M2-05-0022-01
IRO Certificate #: 5284

___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance as an Independent Review Organization. The Texas Worker's Compensation Commission has assigned this case to ___ for independent review in accordance with TWCC Rule 133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

___ has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. In performing this review, all relevant medical records and documentation utilized to make the adverse determination, along with any documentation and written information submitted, was reviewed.

This case was reviewed by a licensed Doctor of Osteopathy who is board certified in Orthopedic Surgery. The reviewer is on the TWCC ADL. The ___ health care professional has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between the reviewer and any of the treating doctors or providers or any of the doctors or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to the referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the reviewer has certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party to the dispute.

CLINICAL HISTORY

This 60 year old female was injured ___ when she tripped on a floor mat and fell to her right side, resulting in pain in the low back with muscle spasms and stiffness. Records are reviewed from Drs. ___, ___, ___, ___ and ___. Test carried out are x-rays on 4-15-2004 which showed L5-S1 narrow disc, MRI on 5-20-2004 near complete desiccation of the disc space L5-S1 and a PNP at the same space and an EMG on 5-26-2004 which is unremarkable. Treatment has consisted of physical therapy, exercises, home exercises and medications of opioids and NSAID.

REQUESTED SERVICE

The item in dispute is the prospective medical necessity of a bilateral lumbar medial branch block.

DECISION

The review agrees with the previous adverse determination.

BASIS FOR THE DECISION

The reviewer states that references for this decision are from Bucholz's Orthopedic Decision Making, 2nd Edition, ACOEM Guidelines, Pain Physician 2001 Algorithm.

___ has performed an independent review solely to determine the medical necessity of the health services that are the subject of the review. ___ has made no determinations regarding benefits available under the injured employee's policy. ___ believes it has made a reasonable attempt to obtain all medical records for this review and afforded the requestor, respondent and treating doctor an opportunity to provide additional information in a convenient and timely manner.

As an officer of ___, I certify that there is no known conflict between the reviewer, ___ and/or any officer/employee of the IRO with any person or entity that is a party to the dispute.

Sincerely,

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.

In the case of prospective *spinal surgery* decision, a request for a hearing must be made in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within 10 days of your receipt of this decision. (20 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5(c)).

In the case of other *prospective (preauthorization) medical necessity* disputes a request for a hearing must be in writing, and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20** (twenty) 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 (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 Worker's Compensation Commission, P.O. Box 40669, Austin, TX 78704-0012. A copy of this decision should be attached to the request.

The party appealing this decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute, per TWCC rule 133.308(t)(2).

Sincerely,

I hereby certify, in accordance with TWCC Rule 102.4 (h), that a copy of this Independent Review Organization decision was sent to the carrier, requestor, claimant (and/or the claimant's representative) and the TWCC via facsimile, U.S. Postal Service or both on this 29th day of September, 2004