

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 May 9, 2005.

Sincerely,

Gilbert Prud'homme
General Counsel

GP/th

REVIEWER'S REPORT
M2-05-1420-01

Information Provided for Review:

TWCC-60, Table of Disputed Services, EOB's

Information provided by Requestor:

Office notes 02/24/05 – 04/11/05

Radiology report 01/13/05

Information provided by Respondent:

Correspondence

Clinical History:

The patient is status post L4/L5 and L5/S1 fusions from January 2004 that were administered related to an injury on _____. Lumbar facet injections given 04/01/05 helped her for a few days, but symptoms started to quickly return as of 04/11/05.

Disputed Services:

Lumbar facet injection at L1-2, L2-3 & L3-4.

Decision:

The reviewer disagrees with the determination of the insurance carrier and is of the opinion that the injections in dispute as stated above are medically necessary in this case.

Rationale:

Given the patient's surgical history of L4/L5 and L5/S1 fusions over 1 year ago, it is likely that facet degeneration and dysfunction at levels above the fusions would occur. Additionally, the patient demonstrated positive facet signs on physical examination as well as a positive response to facet injections. She clearly should be granted further facet injections, at least to allow a series of 3 injections at each site to have occurred.