



CompPartners Final Report



CompPartners Peer Review Network
Physician Review Recommendation
Prepared for TDI/DWC

Claimant Name:

TWCC # :

MDR Tracking #: M2-05-2248-01

Social Security #:

Treating Provider: Richard Marks

Review: Prospective

State: TX

Date Assigned: 9/19/05

Date Completed: 9/21/05

Date Amended: 9/22/05

Review Data:

- **Notification of IRO Assignment dated 8/25/05, 1 page.**
- **Receipt of Request dated 8/25/05, 1 page.**
- **Medical Dispute Resolution Request/Response dated 7/25/05, 1 page.**
- **List of Treating Physician's (date unspecified), 1 page.**
- **Table of Disputed Services (date unspecified), 1 page.**
- **TWCC Pre-authorization Report and Notification dated 7/8/05, 7/1/05, 3 pages.**
- **Physician Order Form (date unspecified), 1 page.**
- **Upper and Lower Extremity Electrodiagnostic Study dated 1/20/05, 8 pages.**

Reason for Assignment by TDI/DWC: Appeal the medical necessity of the previously denied repeat lumbar and cervical MRI with flexion and extension.

Determination: **UPHELD** - previously denied repeat lumbar and cervical MRI with flexion and extension.

Rationale:

Patient's age: 49 years

Gender: Female

Date of Injury: _____

Mechanism of Injury: Not stated in the records submitted for review.

Diagnoses: Lumbago.

Back and leg pain.

Neck and left arm pain, numbness.

CORPORATE OFFICE

18881 VON KARMAN AVENUE, SUITE 900, IRVINE, CA 92612

TELEPHONE: (949) 253-3116 FACSIMILE: (949) 253-8995

E-MAIL: prn@CompPartners.com TOLL FREE 1-877-968-7426

Electrodiagnostic studies were done on 01/20/05. The upper nerve conduction velocity (NCV) study was abnormal due to the ulnar F-wave latency asymmetry, with the longer latency being on the left, suggestive of a possible C8 or T1 radiculopathy on the left. The prolonged sensory latency with stimulation of both median and ulnar nerves indicated trauma or entrapment of these nerves at the wrist. The prolonged left median motor latency was also compatible with a left median entrapment neuropathy. The marked slowing seen in both the ulnar nerves as they crossed over the medial epicondyle, indicated trauma or entrapment of these nerves at the elbow. The slowing seen in the right ulnar nerve between the elbow and the wrist, indicated trauma or entrapment of this nerve in the forearm. The upper electromyogram (EMG) study was normal. The lower NCV study was abnormal due to the prolonged sural latency on the right indicating trauma or entrapment of this nerve at the ankle. The lower EMG study was normal. A repeat lumbar and cervical MRI with flexion and extension had been requested, but denied per peer review. Based on a review of the medical records, the request for the repeat lumbar and cervical MRIs with flexion and extension is not recommended as medically necessary. No physician generated medical records have been provided for review. The claimant's current symptoms and objective findings were not indicated and there was no clear rationale for the requested flexion/extension MRIs. The claimant was reportedly injured in ____, but there was no indication if the claimant is having new symptoms, changing symptoms, or worsening symptoms. It is unknown when the prior MRIs of the cervical and lumbar spine were done as well as the results of these studies. It is also unknown if flexion/extension X-rays have been done which would be recommended prior to obtaining flexion/extension MRIs. While upper NCV studies were abnormal, this finding alone does not support the need for repeat MRIs. Therefore, in the absence of any medical records, the requested studies cannot be recommended.

Criteria/Guidelines utilized: Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 2nd edition: Braddom; Chapter 37, pages 772-775 and Chapter 40, page 861.

Physician Reviewers Specialty: Orthopedic Surgery

Physician Reviewers Qualifications: Texas Licensed M.D. in Orthopedics, and currently listed on the TWCC ADL list.

CompPartners, Inc. hereby certifies that the reviewing physician or provider has certified that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her 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 CompPartners, Inc.

Your Right to Appeal

If you are unhappy with all or part of this decision, you have the right to appeal the decision. The decision of the Independent Review Organization is binding during the appeal process.

If you are disputing the decision (other than a spinal surgery prospective decision), the appeal must be made directly to a district court in Travis County (see Texas Labor Code §413.031). An

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appeal to District Court must be filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the decision that is the subject of the appeal is final and appealable. If you are disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision, a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the Division of Workers' Compensation, Chief Clerk of Proceedings, within ten (10) days of your receipt of this decision.

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