

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

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September 7, 2006

Requestor

John A. Sazy, MD  
ATTN: Whitney T.  
431 Omega Dr., Ste 104  
Arlington, TX 76014

Respondent

Zurich American Ins. Co  
c/o Flahive, Ogden & Latson  
ATTN: Katie Foster  
604 Lavaca, Ste 1000  
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Claim #:  
Injured Worker:  
MDR Tracking #: M2-06-1813-01  
IRO Certificate #: IRO4326

TMF Health Quality Institute (TMF) has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has assigned the above referenced case to TMF for independent review in accordance with DWC Rule §133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

TMF has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. In performing this review, relevant medical records, any documents utilized by the parties referenced above in making the adverse determination, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the appeal was reviewed.

The independent review was performed by a TMF physician reviewer who is board certified in Orthopedic Surgery, by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, Inc, licensed by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners (TSBME) in 1969, and who provides health care to injured workers. This is the same specialty as the treating physician. The TMF physician reviewer has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and the provider, the injured employee, the injured employee's employer, the injured employee's insurance carrier, the utilization review agent, or any of the treating doctors or insurance carrier health care providers who reviewed the case for decision before referral to the IRO. In addition, the reviewer has certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party to this case.

Clinical History

This patient sustained a work related injury on 02/\_\_/05 when he fall off of a truck and landed between the dock and the truck. The patient complains of pain in his back and leg. In addition, he has pain upon extension of his elbow. The patient has undergone MRI scans of the lumbar and cervical spine as well as the left elbow. He has also undergone electro-diagnostic testing.

Requested Service(s)

Repeat discogram W/CT L3-4, L404, and L4-S1

Decision

It is determined that the Repeat discogram W/CT L3-4, L404, and L4-S1 is not medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

A discogram is a diagnostic procedure frequently utilized to assist a spine surgeon in pre-operative planning prior to the performance of a spinal fusion. This patient has no physical findings suggestive of compressive neuropathy and he had not been documented as a surgical candidate. Therefore, the medical documentation does not substantiate the indication for discography.

This decision by the IRO is deemed to be a DWC decision and order.

**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 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.

This decision is deemed received by you 5 (five) days after it was mailed or the date of fax (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.5(d)). A request for hearing and a **copy of this decision** must be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings/Appeals Clerk, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744, Fax: 512-804-4011.

The party appealing this decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in this dispute.

Sincerely,

Gordon B. Strom, Jr., MD  
Director of Medical Assessment

cc: Program Administrator, Medical Review Division, DWC

In accordance with Division 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 7th day of September 2006.

Signature of IRO Employee:

Printed Name of IRO Employee:

**Information Submitted to TMF for Review**

**Patient Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tracking #:** M2-06-1813-01

**Information Submitted by Requestor:**

- Office notes from Dr. Sazy
- Results of MRI of the lumbar spine
- Results of MRI of the left elbow
- Results of MRI of the cervical spine
- Electro-diagnostic studies

**Information Submitted by Respondent:**

- Letters from Attorneys to TMF
- Results of MRI of the lumbar spine
- Results of MRI of the left elbow
- Results of MRI of the cervical spine
- Electro-diagnostic studies
- Table of disputed services