

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

October 28, 2005

Requestor

Jacob Rosenstein, MD
ATTN: Jennifer
800 W. Arbrook, Ste 150
Arlington, TX 76015

RE: Claim #:
Injured Worker:
MDR Tracking #: M2-06-0088-01
IRO Certificate #: IRO4326

Barton Oaks Plaza Two, Suite 200
901 Mopac Expressway South • Austin, TX 78746-5799
Phone 512-329-6610 • Fax 512-327-7159 • www.tmf.org

Amended Letter: November 11, 2005

Respondent

American Protection Ins. Co. c/o ESIS
ATTN: Madeline Hershey
P.O. Box 759
Houston, TX 77001

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 Neurological Surgery, by the American Board of Neurological Surgery, Inc., licensed by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners (TSBME) in 1986, 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 any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to the referral to TMF for independent review. 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 ___ when his 18 wheeler was rear ended by another 18 wheeler. He suffered neck and low back pain with multilevel protrusions from C4 to C7 as well as L5 pars defects. The patient has been treated with pain management, chiropractic care, medications, and epidural steroid injections.

Requested Service(s)

Epidural steroid injections

Decision

It is determined the epidural steroid injections are medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

This patient has symptoms of chronic low back pain with acute exacerbation due to L5/S1 disc protrusion and L5 pars defects. Epidural steroid injections are widely used and appropriate treatment in this clinical setting. The epidural steroid injections as requested are medically necessary treatment of this patient.

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

GBS:dm
Attachment

cc: _____, Injured Worker
Program Administrator, Medical Review Division, DWC

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 28th day of October 2005.

Signature of IRO Employee:

Printed Name of IRO Employee: