

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

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January 10, 2007

Requestor

RS Medical
ATTN: Joe Basham
P.O. Box 872650
Vancouver, WA 98687-2650

Respondent

Texas Mutual Insurance Company
ATTN: Richard Ball
Fax#: (512) 224-7094

RE: Claim #: _____
Injured Worker: _____
MDR Tracking #: M2-07-0454-01
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 Anesthesiology, by the American Board of Anesthesiology, Inc., licensed by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners (TSBME) in 1989, 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 ___ when she was lifting a heavy ceramic pot resulting in pain and stiffness in the lower back. In addition the patient has spondylosis of L4-S1 and mild desiccation of L5-S1. The patient continues to have low back pain despite multiple prescriptions for medications and physical therapy.

Requested Service(s)

Purchase of an RS4i Muscle/Interferential Stimulator

Decision

It is determined that the purchase of an RS4i Muscle/Interferential Stimulator is medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

This patient has failed conservative therapy for her low back pain, including multiple medications, physical therapy, injections, and chiropractic care. The medical record documentation indicates that the RS4i stimulator has made significant improvement in her pain management since taking delivery of the equipment. Based on MRI results, the patient is not a surgical candidate and it appears that the RS4i is helpful in reducing the patient's medication usage. Therefore, it is determined that the RS4i Muscle/Interferential stimulator is medically necessary

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 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 10th day of January 2007.

Signature of IRO Employee:

Printed Name of IRO Employee:

Information Submitted to TMF for Review

Patient Name: ____

Tracking #: M2-07-0454-01

Information Submitted by Requestor:

- Procedure Booking/Physician Orders
- Pre Authorization/Precert Request
- Office notes from Dr. Chang
- Prescription for sequential stimulator
- Patient Usage Report
- Letter of Medical Necessity from Dr. Chang
- Letter from patient

Information Submitted by Respondent:

- Request for hearing
- Determination Letter
- Designated Doctor Evaluation
- Letter of Clarification: Extent in dispute