

October 31, 2003

Re: Medical Dispute Resolution
MDR #: M5-03-2958-01
TWCC#:
IRO Certificate No.: IRO 5055

IRI has performed an independent review of the medical records of the above-named case to determine medical necessity. In performing this review, **IRI** reviewed relevant medical records, any documents provided by the parties referenced above, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the dispute.

The independent review was performed by a matched peer with the treating health care provider. This case was reviewed by a physician who is certified in Spinal Surgery.

Clinical History:

The patient is a 27-year-old male who injured his back at work on 08/___/02. He was seen and examined on 08/29/02 and appropriately treated medically, and sent for physical therapy. He returned for office visits on 08/31/02, 09/04/02 and 09/06/02. On his visit on 09/06/02, the treating physician noted that the patient had been to physical therapy but had not been improving, and therapy seemed to provoke more pain. The pain that was mainly in his back was going down his right lateral and posterior thigh and upper calf. The patient also subjectively noted weakness in the right leg. Examination on that date, 09/06/02, revealed a positive straight-leg raise on the right and subjective decreased sensation on the right as well.

Disputed Services:

MRI scan of the lumbar spine, 09/11/02.

Decision:

The reviewer disagrees with the determination of the insurance carrier. The services in dispute are medically necessary.

Rationale:

Based on the treating physicians findings and since the patient was not improving with conservative care and was demonstrating radicular symptoms, an MRI scan was medically necessary.

and I certify that the reviewing healthcare professional in this case has certified to our organization that there are no known conflicts of interest that exist between him and any of the treating physicians or other health care providers or any of the physicians or other health care providers who reviewed this case for determination prior to referral to the Independent Review Organization.

Sincerely,