

MDR Tracking Number: M5-03-0136-01

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective January 1, 2002 and Commission Rule 133.305 and 133.308 titled Medical Dispute Resolution by Independent Review Organizations, the Medical Review Division assigned an IRO to conduct a review of the disputed medical necessity issues between the requestor and the respondent.

The Medical Review Division has reviewed the IRO decision and determined that **the requestor prevailed** on the issues of medical necessity. Therefore, upon receipt of this Order and in accordance with §133.308(q)(9), the Commission hereby orders the respondent and non-prevailing party to **refund the requestor \$650.00** for the paid IRO fee. For the purposes of determining compliance with the order, the Commission will add 20 days to the date the order was deemed received as outlined on page one of this order.

In accordance with §413.031(e), it is a defense for the carrier if the carrier timely complies with the IRO decision.

Based on review of the disputed issues within the request, the Medical Review Division has determined that **medical necessity was the only issue** to be resolved. The work conditioning /work hardening treatment/services were found to be medically necessary. The respondent raised no other reasons for denying reimbursement for these work conditioning / work hardening treatment/service charges.

This Finding and Decision is hereby issued this 9th day of July 2003.

Carol R. Lawrence
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

On this basis, and pursuant to §§402.042, 413.016, 413.031, and 413.019 of the Act, the Medical Review Division hereby ORDERS the respondent to pay the unpaid medical fees in accordance with the fair and reasonable rate as set forth in Commission Rule 133.1(a)(8) plus all accrued interest due at the time of payment to the requestor within 20 days of receipt of this order. This Order is applicable to dates of service 9/6/01 through 10/30/01 in this dispute.

The respondent is prohibited from asserting additional denial reasons relative to this Decision upon issuing payment to the requestor in accordance with this Order (Rule 133.307(j)(2)).

This Order is hereby issued this 9th day of July 2003.

David R. Martinez, Manager
Medical Dispute Resolution
Medical Review Division

DRM/crl

July 2, 2003

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

RE: MDR Tracking #: M5-03-0136-01

___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). ___ IRO Certificate Number is 5348. Texas Worker's Compensation Commission (TWCC) Rule §133.308 allows for a claimant or provider to request an independent review of a Carrier's adverse medical necessity determination. TWCC assigned the above-reference case to ___ for independent review in accordance with this Rule.

___ has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine whether or not the adverse determination was appropriate. Relevant medical records, documentation provided by the parties referenced above and other documentation and written information submitted regarding this appeal was reviewed during the performance of this independent review.

This case was reviewed by a practicing chiropractor on the ___ external review panel. The ___ chiropractor reviewer signed a statement certifying that no known conflicts of interest exist between this chiropractor and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed this case for a determination prior to the referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the ___ chiropractor reviewer certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party in this case.

Clinical History

This case concerns a 38 year-old male who sustained a work related injury on ___. The patient reported that while at work he was carrying a box into a freezer when he slipped and fell. The patient reported experiencing low back, left hip and right knee pain immediately. The patient underwent an MRI on 12/28/00 and myelogram on 5/29/01. The patient has been treated with oral medications, work hardening program, electrical stimulation, work conditioning and passive and active therapies.

Requested Services

Work conditioning and work hardening from 9/6/01 through 10/30/01.

Decision

The Carrier's determination that these services were not medically necessary for the treatment of this patient's condition is overturned.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The ___ physician reviewer noted that this case concerns a 38 year-old male who sustained a work related injury to his low back, left hip and right knee on ___. The ___ chiropractor reviewer also noted that the treatment for this patient's condition has included oral medications, work hardening program, electrical stimulation, work conditioning and passive and active therapies. The ___ chiropractor reviewer indicated that this patient had been treated and referred to the

work conditioning and work hardening program. The ___ chiropractor reviewer explained that after a thorough evaluation, it was determined that the patient was severely deconditioned. The ___ chiropractor reviewer noted that the patient began an 8-week course of care. The ___ chiropractor reviewer indicated that the patient did not make any real improvement. The ___ chiropractor reviewer also indicated that at that point, it was prudent to increase this patient's activity level to recondition him as best as possible. However, the ___ chiropractor reviewer explained that this patient can not tolerate exertional activity and ultimately was classified for very sedentary work. The ___ chiropractor reviewer also explained that no other form of care has helped this man either. The ___ chiropractor reviewer further explained that it was appropriate to try new and different forms of therapy as this is not a surgical type of case. Therefore, the ___ chiropractor consultant concluded that the work conditioning and work hardening from 9/6/01 through 10/30/01 were medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Sincerely,