

THIS DECISION HAS BEEN APPEALED. THE FOLLOWING IS THE RELATED SOAH DECISION NUMBER:

SOAH DOCKET NO. 453-03-3302.M5

MDR Tracking Number: M5-03-1265-01

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, 2003 and Commission Rule 133.305 and 133.308 titled Medical Dispute Resolution by Independent Review Organizations, the Medical Review Division (Division) assigned an IRO to conduct a review of the disputed medical necessity issues between the requestor and the respondent.

The Division has reviewed the enclosed IRO decision and determined that **the requestor did not prevail** on the issues of medical necessity. The IRO agrees with the previous determination that the disputed prescription medications were not medically necessary. Therefore, the requestor is not entitled to reimbursement of the IRO fee.

Based on review of the disputed issues within the request, the Division has determined that prescription medication fees were the only fees involved in the medical dispute to be resolved. As the treatment was not found to be medically necessary, reimbursement for dates of service from 1/25/02 to 2/15/02 is denied and the Division declines to issue an Order in this dispute.

This Decision is hereby issued this 11th day of April 2003.

Noel L. Beavers
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

NLB/nlb

April 8, 2003

David Martinez
TWCC Medical Dispute Resolution
4000 IH 35 South, MS 48
Austin, TX 78704

MDR Tracking #: M5-03-1265-01
IRO #: 5251

___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance as an Independent Review Organization. The Texas Worker's Compensation Commission has assigned this case to ___ for independent review in accordance with TWCC Rule 133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

___ has performed an independent review of the care rendered to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. In performing this review, all relevant medical records and documentation utilized to make the adverse determination, along with any documentation and written information submitted, was reviewed.

The independent review was performed by a matched peer with the treating doctor. This case was reviewed by a licensed D.O. board certified in Anesthesiology and specialized in Pain Management. The ___ health care professional has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between the reviewer and any of the treating doctors or providers or any of the doctors or providers who reviewed the case for a determination prior to the referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the reviewer has certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party to the dispute.

CLINICAL HISTORY

The limited information provided indicates that this patient suffers a lumbar pathology stemming from an injury that occurred on ___. ___ diagnosis, per ___ as of 4/16/02, is that of L4/5 and L5/S1 HNP with spondylosthesis and post lumbar laminectomy syndrome.

DISPUTED SERVICES

Under dispute are the medications prescribed to ___ from 1/25/02 through 2/15/02.

DECISION

The reviewer agrees with the prior adverse determination.

BASIS FOR THE DECISION

___ offers no indication as to the efficacy of Carisoprodol and the topical preparation, Coats Aloe, in the claimant's condition. Furthermore, he does not even address Celebrex and Ultracet. Without more substantial information, it is not possible to suggest that this patient's current medicine schedule is reasonable or necessary for proper management in this nine and one-half year old condition.

___ has performed an independent review solely to determine the medical necessity of the health services that are the subject of the review. ___ has made no determinations regarding benefits available under the injured employee's policy

As an officer of ___, I certify that there is no known conflict between the reviewer, ___ and/or any officer/employee of the IRO with any person or entity that is a party to the dispute.

___ is forwarding this finding by US Postal Service to the TWCC.

Sincerely,