

June 13, 2003

Re: Medical Dispute Resolution  
MDR #: M5-03-1750-01  
TWCC#: 02-021613

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 Chiropractic medicine.

Clinical History:

This female claimant suffered musculoskeletal injuries in a work-related accident on 02/28/02. She began treatment on 03/04/02 that consisted of chiropractic modalities and exercise rehab with aquatic therapy. MRI on 03/18/02 resulted in referral to a neurosurgeon for evaluation.

Disputed Services:

Chiropractic treatments from 04/17/02 through 08/23/02.

Decision:

The reviewer partially agrees with the determination of the insurance carrier. The reviewer is of the opinion chiropractic services rendered from 04/17/02 until 05/21/02 were reasonable and necessary. Manual traction (97012) on 05/21/02 was not medically necessary. All other services performed after 05/21/02 were not reasonable or medically necessary.

Rationale for Decision:

The patient's injuries are musculoskeletal in nature, which should heal within six to eight weeks. It was noted that she is deconditioned and overweight. Other mitigating factors include multi-level degeneration of her thoracic spine as shown on MRI.

The patient's condition had become chronic on 05/21/02. She had reached maximum therapeutic benefit from her chiropractic care, as evidenced in the notes from 05/21/02. Additional care beyond that point would not progress her to recovery.

I am \_\_\_\_\_ 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,