

IRO – AMERICA - Ziroc

June 26, 2003

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

Patient:
TWCC #:
MDR Tracking #: M5-03-2165-01
IRO #: 5251

Ziroc 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 Ziroc for independent review in accordance with TWCC Rule 133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

Ziroc 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 Medical Doctor with a specialty and board certification in Neurological Surgery. The Ziroc 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 Ziroc 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

This patient is a 57-year-old gentleman who injured his back on 11/__/95. After a course of conservative treatment, he failed to resolve his syndrome and underwent laminectomy and fusion with instrumentation in 1996 with subsequent removal of his bone growth stimulator battery in 1997. He had evidence of pseudoarthrosis and spinal stenosis at L2/3 and L3/4 requiring extension of his fusion up to L3/4 with decompression of L2/3. He had significant back and leg pain that required extension of the spinal fusion. That was performed on 2/23/01. He continued to have significant back and leg pain, as well as sphincteric abnormalities. There was evidence of pseudoarthrosis at L3/4 and lateral recess stenosis at L2/3, L3/4, L4/5, L5/S1 and S1/2 with foraminotomies at L2 through S1 bilaterally and removal of hardware at L3/4, as well as anterior fusion via posterior approach at L5/S1 using BAK cages and lateral transverse process fusion and facet fusion from L3 to S2 with instrumented fusion from L5 through S1. This surgical procedure was performed on 5/28/02.

By 5/30/02 he was ambulatory and his closed drainage system was discontinued on 5/31/02. In the progress note from 5/31/02 it is noted that he may be ready for discharge "tomorrow," indicating 6/1/02. He did have a postoperative fever and was placed on oral antibiotics consisting

of Cipro Floxacillin 750 mg p.o.b.i.d. on 5/31/02. He was continued on oral Cipro Floxacillin at the time of discharge.

DISPUTED SERVICES

Under dispute is the medical necessity of three additional hospital days from 6/1/02 through 6/3/02 for Mr. Gonzalez

DECISION

The reviewer agrees with the prior adverse determination.

BASIS FOR THE DECISION

The medical necessity of three additional hospital days from 6/1/02 through 6/3/02 was not necessary. Based upon treatment guidelines and care standards, there is no indication in the medical record as to the need for the additional three hospital days. Although the patient did have a fever, he was only placed on oral antibiotics that certainly could have been administered as an outpatient. If there was concern regarding the appearance of the wound, this of course could have been checked as an outpatient as well.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Nan Cunningham
President/CEO

CC: Ziroc Medical Director