

MDR Tracking Number: M5-03-2770-01

Under the provisions of Section 413.031 of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, Title 5, Subtitle A of the Texas Labor Code, effective June 17, 2001 and Commission Rule 133.305 titled Medical Dispute Resolution - General 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 dispute was received on June 30, 2003.

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(r)(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 unlisted nervous system non-surgical decompression (DRX) and physical therapy sessions were found to be medically necessary. The respondent raised no other reasons for denying reimbursement for unlisted nervous system non-surgical decompression (DRX) and physical therapy session's charges.

This Findings and Decision is hereby issued this 16th day of September 2003.

Margaret Q. Ojeda
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division

MQO/mqo

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 8/19/02 through 10/18/02 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 16th day of September 2003.

Roy Lewis, Supervisor
Medical Dispute Resolution
Medical Review Division

RL/mqo

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

August 28, 2003

Rosalinda Lopez
Program Administrator
Medical Review Division
Texas Workers Compensation Commission
4000 South IH-35, MS 48
Austin, TX 78704-7491

RE: MDR Tracking # M5-03-2770-01
IRO Certificate # IRO 4326

___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). The Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC) has assigned the above referenced case to ___ for independent review in accordance with TWCC §133.308 which allows for medical dispute resolution by an IRO.

___ has performed an independent review of the rendered care to determine if the adverse determination was appropriate. In performing this review, relevant medical records, any documents utilized by the parties referenced above in making the adverse determination, and any documentation and written information submitted in support of the appeal was reviewed.

The independent review was performed by a ___ physician reviewer who is board certified in family practice which is the same specialty as the treating physician. The ___ physician reviewer has signed a certification statement stating that no known conflicts of interest exist between him or her and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians 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 this case.

Clinical History

This patient sustained an injury on ___ while working on a dirt scraper when another work vehicle struck him from behind. MRIs dated 05/07/02 revealed a disc bulge at C6-7 and a small herniation at L5-S1. The patient underwent a cervical nerve block and lumbar epidural steroid injection. He saw a designated doctor who placed him at maximum medical improvement with a 0% impairment rating on 08/28/02.

Requested Service(s)

Unlisted nervous system non-surgical decompression (DRX) and physical therapy sessions on 08/19/02 through 10/18/02

Decision

It is determined that the unlisted nervous system non-surgical decompression (DRX) and physical therapy sessions on 08/19/02 through 10/18/02 were medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

This patient has chronic back pain unrelieved by other conservative methods and medications. He underwent treatments with the DRX 2000 for non-invasive lumbar decompression. The MRI showed degenerative changes at L5-S1 and the electromyography was positive for L4-5 radicular changes bilaterally. Therefore, it is determined that the unlisted nervous system non-surgical decompression (DRX) and physical therapy sessions on 08/19/02 through 10/18/02 were medically necessary.

Sincerely,