

MDR Tracking Number: M5-03-3169-01

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 assigned an IRO to conduct a review of the disputed medical necessity issues between the requestor and the respondent. The dispute was received on 8-4-03.

The Medical Review 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 lumbar myelogram was 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 Medical Review Division has determined that fees were the only fees involved in the medical dispute to be resolved. As the services listed above were not found to be medically necessary, reimbursement for dates of service from to is denied and the Medical Review Division declines to issue an Order in this dispute.

This Decision is hereby issued this 24th day of October 2003.

Dee Z. Torres
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer
Medical Review Division
DZT/dzt

October 16, 2003

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

RE: MDR Tracking #: M5-03-3169-01

___ 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 physician on the ___ external review panel. The reviewer has met the requirements for the ADL of TWCC or has been approved as an exception to the ADL requirement. This physician is board certified in neurosurgery. The ___ physician reviewer signed a statement certifying that no known conflicts of interest exist between this

physician 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 ___ physician reviewer certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party in this case.

Clinical History

This case concerns a female who sustained a work related injury on ____. The patient reported that while at work she slipped and fell injuring her lower back. The patient was initially treated with conservative treatment. The patient then underwent a posterior decompression with insertion of Ray Cages, segmental pedicle stabilization of L3-L4, L4-L5 and L5-S1 with implantation of an EBI bone stimulator on 9/21/99. In December of 2000 the patient underwent removal of the bone stimulator and left L4 pedicle screw, excision of a lumboasacral cyst, excision of pseudoarthrosis, and bone grafting of pedicle screw at the L3, L4, and L5 bilaterally. The patient underwent a myelogram with CT scan following on 10/10/01 that showed minimal posterior disc bulging at the L1-L2 and L2-L3 levels. The patient underwent a second myelogram with CT scan following on 8/28/02.

Requested Services

Lumbar Myelogram.

Decision

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

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The ___ physician reviewer noted that this case involves a female who sustained a work related injury to her low back on ____. The ___ physician reviewer also noted that the patient is status postposterior decompression with insertion of Ray Cages, segmental pedicle stabilization of L3-L4, L4-L5 and L5-S1 with implantation of the bone stimulator on 9/21/99. The ___ physician reviewer further noted that in December of 2000 the patient underwent removal of the bone stimulator and left L4 pedicle screw, excision of a lumbosacral cyst, excision of pseudoarthrosis and bone grafting of pedicle screw at the L3, L4, and L5 bilaterally. The ___ physician reviewer explained that there is no reported incidence of either neurogenic claudication or radicular complaints indicating the need for myelography. Therefore, the ___ physician consultant concluded that the requested lumbar myelogram was not medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Sincerely,