

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

**SOAH DOCKET NO. 453-04-2320.M5**

MDR Tracking Number: M5-03-3290-01

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 August 01, 2003.

The Medical Review Division has reviewed the IRO decision and determined that **the requestor prevailed** on the issues of medical necessity for massage therapy, ultrasound therapy, electrical stimulation and therapeutic exercises. 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 respondent raised no other reasons for denying reimbursement massage therapy, ultrasound therapy, electrical stimulation and therapeutic exercises.

This Findings and Decision is hereby issued this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2003.

Georgina Rodriguez  
Medical Dispute Resolution Officer  
Medical Review Division

GR/gr

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 01-21-03 through 02-28-03 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of December 2003.

Roy Lewis, Supervisor  
Medical Dispute Resolution  
Medical Review Division  
RL/gr

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

December 4, 2003

Rosalinda Lopez  
Program Administrator  
Medical Review Division  
Texas Workers Compensation Commission  
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100, MS 48  
Austin, TX 78744-1609

RE: MDR Tracking #: M5-03-3290-01  
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 \_\_\_ when he slipped and fell on a greasy floor. An MRI dated 01/15/03 revealed a herniated disc at L5-S1 and electromyography was consistent with S1 radiculopathy. He attended a course of physical therapy.

Requested Service(s)

Massage therapy, ultrasound therapy, electrical stimulation, and therapeutic exercises from 01/21/03 through 02/28/03

Decision

It is determined that the massage therapy, ultrasound therapy, electrical stimulation, and therapeutic exercises from 01/21/03 through 02/28/03 were medically necessary to treat this patient's condition.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

After completing a course of physical therapy, the re-evaluation documented an increase in strength. He continued with therapy until further re-assessment showed adequate improvement and it was completed. The therapy was necessary as part of his rehabilitation back to a more functional work capacity. Therefore, it is determined that the massage therapy, ultrasound therapy, electrical stimulation, and therapeutic exercises from 01/21/03 through 02/28/03 were medically necessary.

Sincerely,