



Meeting Summary
December 6, 2002

Members present: Tamara Arthur, D.O., Marsha Sorum, Frank Prideaux, D.C, Joseph Eusterman, M.D., Tom Williams, Teri Jackson.

WCD MAC staff: Nancy Bieber and Debra Buchanan

Others present: John Shilts, WCD Administrator; Fred Bruyns, WCD

Absent: T. Keenen, W. LaChapelle, F. Wong

1. Procedures for review: John Shilts led a brief discussion regarding the inherent tension between the interests of making the latest advances in medicine available to injured workers and the interests in not using the workers' compensation system to promote procedures which are experimental, unproven, outmoded or ineffective.

A. IDET: The Committee reviewed an abstract of a study presented at the 10th Annual Meeting of the International Spinal Injection Society at Austin, Texas on September 7, 2002. The Committee found that the study, not yet published or peer reviewed, left many important questions unanswered about the efficacy of the IDET procedure. WCD will research to determine if a full study is available yet.

Decision: The Committee concluded there is not sufficient information in the abstract to warrant a different recommendation to the Director regarding compensability of the IDET procedure. The procedure remains unproven.

Action: Dr. Eusterman will contact major spine centers to find out if any are currently conducting any studies on the IDET procedure.

B. DRX9000 System: Liberty Northwest requests the director consider limiting the compensability of the DRX9000 System on the grounds that it is unproven. WCD therefore requested MAC to review this procedure.

Action: Dr. Prideaux and Tom Williams, as a sub-committee, will research this procedure and report their findings to the full committee prior to the next meeting.

C. Autologous Cultured Chondrocyte Implantation (ACT): Pinnacle Risk Management Services requested the director consider limiting compensability of the ACT procedure on the grounds that it is unproven. WCD therefore requested MAC to review this procedure. Dr. Wong sent in some articles regarding this procedure and a system for rating the efficacy and safety of medical procedures. Marsha Sorum noted that Tom Carlson, M.D. in Bend, has given a presentation on this procedure, and suggested the MAC might wish to have him address the committee regarding the procedure. She suggested MAC consider holding the April meeting in Redmond.

Actions: Dr. Arthur will complete a literature review of this procedure prior to the next meeting. Nancy will review the Hayes rating system so the committee can determine if this would be a valuable tool in determining if WCD should limit compensability of a procedure.

2. WCD Updates: Nancy reported that MLAC will meet on December 12th to review, among other topics, changes to the PPD rating system.

Action: Dr. Arthur will plan to attend the meeting to establish a liaison between MAC and MLAC.

Nancy and Debbie reported on a recent Supreme Court decision that overturns a Court of Appeals decision that had previously been presented to MAC. The C of A decision was one of few decisions in the last year that seemed to narrow the definition of “objective findings” to those which were “presently verifiable” at the time of an examination. The Supreme Court overruled the C of A.

Action: Debbie will provide copies of the Court of Appeals cases (*Lewis and Gode*) and the Supreme Court case (*Lewis*).

3. Medical Fee Report: Nancy and Dr. Arthur gave a report of the first meeting of the Medical Fee Advisory Committee. The second meeting was scheduled for the afternoon of December 6th.

4. Upcoming topics:

- Where to meet in April
- The Hayes Rating system
- The Medical Fee Schedule
- Procedures for review
- Pharmacy fees

Decision: Teri will serve as a representative of MAC on the Pharmacy fee schedule advisory committee.