



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services  
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TO: All interested parties

SUBJECT: Denial of petition to declare all forms of interferential stimulation\* non-compensable  
*\*Interferential stimulation is also known as "interferential electrotherapy."*

The Workers' Compensation Division recently asked for public comment on a petition for rulemaking. That petition requested adoption of a rule to declare all forms of interferential stimulation non-compensable for the treatment of injured workers. The petitioner maintained that interferential stimulation is unscientific, has not been proven to be effective, and is experimental. As an alternative, the petitioner asked that reimbursement be limited to that allowed for transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS).

Although evidence was presented in both support and opposition, most of the comments submitted opposed the petitioner's recommendations. Based on those comments, professional advice, and the evidence presented, the division finds that interferential stimulation has not been shown to be unscientific, unproven as to its effectiveness, or experimental. The division considered the second part of the petition, the alternative that reimbursement for this treatment be limited to that allowed for TENS. We do not have a basis in law to limit reimbursement based on the relative effectiveness of treatment options.

To all of you who submitted comments and medical evidence, we sincerely appreciate your input. We will continue to work closely with the Medical Advisory Committee on development of public policy regarding evidence-based medicine.

If you have questions, please contact Fred Bruyns, Rules Coordinator, (503) 947-7717.

/s/ John L. Shilts

John L. Shilts, Administrator  
Workers' Compensation Division

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CC: Petitioner  
RS Medical  
File