



Medical Advisory Committee POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Date: October 3, 2003

To: John Shilts, Administrator, Workers Compensation Division

From: The Medical Advisory Committee

Re: IDET (IntraDiscal Electrothermal Therapy)

Pursuant to ORS 656.245 (3), the Medical Advisory Committee was asked by Smith & Nephew to reconsider the exclusion of IDET from compensability in Oregon's workers' compensation system.

The final recommendation of the Medical Advisory Committee on March 28, 2001 was to, by rule, exclude from compensability the procedure known as IDET (intradiscal electrothermal therapy). Ultimately, a rule was adopted excluding this procedure from compensability.

This spring, the committee was asked to review a new article, "A Prospective Outcomes Study of Patients Undergoing Intradiscal Electrothermy (IDET) for Chronic Low Back Pain." (Peter C. Gerszten, M.D., MPH, et al)

On June 6, 2003, the Medical Advisory Committee reviewed and discussed the article and unanimously agreed it is insufficient to overcome the "unproven" status of this procedure.

We continue to recommend exclusion of the IDET as an unproven procedure. We will review new evidence in the future that is submitted to us for our review.