



## MEMORANDUM

Date: September 5, 2001

To: John Shilts, Administrator, Workers' Compensation Division

From: David Silver, M.D., Chair, Medical Advisory Committee

Re: Recommendation to exclude the IDET procedure from reimbursement

The final recommendation of the Medical Advisory Committee is to, by rule, exclude from compensability the procedure known as IDET (intradiscal electrothermal therapy).

On March 28, 2001, the Medical Advisory Committee submitted a recommendation to you to adopt a rule to exclude IDET. WCD opened the Division 009 rules to consider this recommendation, held a public hearing and accepted public testimony regarding this proposal. At your request, we reviewed all of the testimony received by WCD prior to making our final recommendation to you.

After a thorough review of all the testimony, the Medical Advisory Committee, by unanimous vote of all members present\* at the meeting of July 27, 2001, agreed to continue the recommendation contained in the March 28, 2001 memo to exclude the IDET procedure from compensability. Because the procedure has not been subjected to any scientifically controlled testing, we find no convincing evidence that the procedure works, and therefore it is unproven. We acknowledge there is anecdotal evidence that the procedure has helped patients, but there is no way to exclude the possibility that the improvement is due solely to placebo effect. There is evidence that the procedure has been harmful to a small number of patients who have undergone the procedure.

The members also agreed unanimously to review any new literature and study results available in six months (January 30, 2002), and periodically thereafter, if warranted.

\* Members present were: Tamara Arthur, Joseph Eusterman, Timothy Keenen, Frank Prideaux, David Silver, Randy Sanne and Franklin Wong