



May 3, 2002

TO: John Shilts, Administrator, WCD

FROM: Medical Advisory Committee

RE: IDET procedure.

On September 5, 2001, we recommended that the Worker's Compensation Division exclude by rule the procedure known as IDET (Intradiscal electrothermal therapy) from compensability in Oregon's workers' compensation system. At the request of the Division, we reconsidered that recommendation at our April 26, 2002 meeting. We completed a literature search and reviewed additional materials that were presented to us from various parties.

After a review of all this material, we did not find any material that went any further to prove the efficacy of the IDET procedure than the materials we previously reviewed. There are still no reports from any scientifically controlled studies that demonstrate the procedure is effective. This was our concern in September and remains our concern.

The Medical Advisory Committee recommends that the Division continue to exclude the IDET procedure from compensability until and unless there are persuasive scientifically controlled studies demonstrating the effectiveness of the procedure..