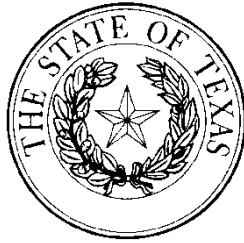


Texas Department of Insurance  
Division of Workers' Compensation



Medical Quality Review  
Annual Audit Plan

January 01, 2011

Pursuant to Texas Labor Code § 413.002, "The Division shall monitor health care providers, insurance carriers, independent review organizations, and workers' compensation claimants who receive medical services to ensure the compliance of those persons with rules adopted by the commissioner relating to health care, including medical policies and fee guidelines." Health care providers practicing in the workers' compensation system and entities that employ or retain health care providers who review medical services will be audited by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC), Office of the Medical Advisor for the following categories. All medical quality reviews will include an analysis of utilization patterns and compliance with TDI-DWC adopted treatment and return-to-work guidelines.

Review Categories:

- Designated Doctors
- Independent Review Organizations
- Treating Doctors
  - Lumbar Spinal Fusions and/or
  - Pain Management
- Utilization Review Agents

For each category within the annual audit plan, the Medical Advisor and the TDI-DWC staff will define the scope, selection criteria, and individual program area responsibilities for a plan-based audit. Each individual plan-based audit proposal shall specify the program area(s) responsibilities for all relevant steps and include specific procedures for each step, including but is not limited to the following:

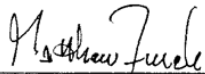
- inclusion and exclusion criteria;
- service time frame to be audited;
- sample size;
- subject and case file selection;
- audit questions for Experts; and
- Experts to be assigned to perform the medical quality review.

The Medical Quality Review Audit Plan may be modified by the Medical Advisor if deemed necessary. Any recommended changes must be approved by the Commissioner.

**This Medical Quality Review Audit Plan is respectfully submitted by:**

 12/30/10

Mary Landrum  
Date:  
Director  
Health Care Business Management


 30 Dec 2010

Matthew Zurek  
Date:  
Executive Deputy Commissioner  
Health Care Management

**This Medical Quality Review Audit Plan is respectfully approved by:**

 12-30-10

Donald Patrick, M.D., J.D.  
Date:  
Medical Advisor

 12/31/10

Rod Bordelon  
Date:  
Commissioner of Workers' Compensation