



Medical Advisory Committee POLICY MEMORANDUM

Date: December 7, 2001

To: John Shilts, Administrator, Workers Compensation Division

From: The Medical Advisory Committee

For the purposes of determining whether a particular medical treatment or service is "experimental," "unproven," "unscientific," or "outmoded," the Medical Advisory Committee adopts the following definitions:

Scientific Method: Formulation and testing of hypotheses, controlled observations or experiments, analysis and interpretation of data, and oral or written presentation of all of these components to scientific colleagues for discussion, and further conclusions, and accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals.

Experimental: A treatment to which the scientific method is being applied but has not been completed.

Unproven: A treatment to which the scientific method has not been applied, or completed scientific method has not shown efficacy.

Unscientific: A treatment to which the scientific method has not been applied.

Outmoded: A treatment outside the current standard of practice of medical care.

When the Medical Advisory Committee receives a request from the department to consider whether a particular treatment should be excluded, the committee, using the above definitions, will:

- * Conduct an extensive review of available literature;
- * Invite presentations and arguments from proponents of the treatment as well as proponents of excluding the treatment from reimbursement in the workers' compensation system;
- * Discuss and debate the issue among the members;
- * Poll the members for recommendations; and

- * Prepare a formal recommendation using the format requested by the director, including majority and minority recommendations as appropriate.
- * If the director proposes a rule to exclude the treatment, the Medical Advisory Committee will review public testimony and comment, and issue a final recommendation following that review.