



July 21, 2006  
(From March 18, 2005 Meeting Decision)

To: John Shilts, Administrator, Workers' Compensation Division

From: The Medical Advisory Committee

On September 5, 2001, the Medical Advisory Committee(MAC) recommended that Intradiscal Electrothermal Therapy (IDET) be excluded from compensability as not proven, pursuant to ORS 656.245(3). The MAC specifically agreed to review new literature periodically to determine if the procedure is proven in an appropriately controlled scientific study. In September of 2004, the committee reviewed recent literature and voted for IDET to be compensable when certain criteria were met. There was more discussion subsequent to that vote by committee members and the issue was brought back again for more consideration. In the March 18, 2005 meeting, the MAC reviewed IDET again including updated materials and studies. After discussion, three members voted for the procedure to be compensable when the criteria were met, and six voted for the procedure to remain non-compensable.

**Thus, the MAC recommended the IDET procedure remain non-compensable for Oregon Workers' Compensation.** This recommendation superceded all previous recommendations. The purpose of this memo is to capture that recommendation.

At that time, the committee noted the most recent study specifically excluded the workers' compensation population. It was recognized that there is a difference between how workers' compensation and personal-injury patients respond as compared to the population at large.

There are very few studies that include a workers' compensation population, much less have only a workers' compensation population. Placing a requirement that a study include workers' compensation population would significantly decrease the number of studies available for review. The committee agreed that requiring workers' compensation population participation in a study was not feasible.

**Recommendation: The IDET procedure remain non-compensable for Oregon Workers' Compensation.**