

ADVISORY NO. 302
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TOPIC: MEDICAL REVIEW OF IDET
(INTRA DISCAL ELECTRO THERMAL TREATMENT)

Attached is TWCC-Advisory 2001-04. The TWCC has issued this advisory announcing a decision on how medical review should be conducted regarding IDET. **This Advisory announces a change in TWCC policy.**

Effective April 12, 2001, the Commission will no longer accept IDET under the Spinal Surgery second opinion process (Rule 133.206). The review of a request for IDET currently pending under the spinal surgery second opinion process shall continue to be completed under that process.

Henceforth, an IDET procedure performed in a hospital or ambulatory surgical care center requires preauthorization under Rule 134.600(h)(1). Otherwise, retrospective review is appropriate. See FOL Advisory No. 301 regarding TWCC Advisory 2001-03 for clarification of the preauthorization process.

The Advisory further points out that IDET is not currently in the spine treatment guidelines. That does not necessarily preclude its' reimbursement. Because the scientific literature may not support the use of this procedure in any given case, we strongly recommend that your preauthorization agent carefully scrutinize the validity and necessity of this procedure before granting preauthorization.