

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Adjustor's Name  
NAME OF INSURANCE COMPANY

FROM: Pam Miller, LVN, CLA  
RECORDS & REVIEW

DATE: February 5, 1999

RE: Claimant: (Patient's Name)  
Insured: Unknown  
Claim #: 43-H329-083  
D/A: 07/14/97

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Supplemental medical records from Dr. Garrett as well as some pharmacy records concerning (Patient's Name) have been incorporated into the patient's prior medical chronology dated August 28, 1998.

## *Medical Treatment:*

Medical records from Dr. Garrett reflect treatment back to 1966, apparently back to childhood. In addition to the normal childhood illnesses, Tim sustained a fracture of the right hand which was shut in a car door. In 1990, the patient sustained some type of a back injury at Tyler Pipe, details unknown. Dr. Garrett noted later that he ran an impaction wrench at Tyler Pipe and now had arthritis. In 1991, the doctor reflected the patient had been to Baylor for evaluation and/or treatment of his arthritis. In 1993, some type of report was provided by Dr. R. Frank Morrison to Dr. Garrett, details unknown. In 1994, Dr. Garrett indicated the patient was still having trouble with his head and neck. On one notation in 1994, the doctor reflected that Tim had had an MRI, and another notation suggested that the MRI was performed in 1992. Whether 1994 or 1992, consideration could be given to obtaining those prior x-ray films for comparison purposes with the study which was made after the accident (on 3/9/98). None of the official reports from the earlier MRI or MRIs were available. It is possible that these earlier MRI's could document the bulge at C3-4 and whether or not any possible impingement existed on the right neural foramina. In 1994, there was a suggestion the patient would visit Dr. Ulrich's clinic. In 1995, the patient apparently visited Dr. Barbee, the chiropractor, for complaints of headaches and right-sided neck pain. In 1996, no complaints regarding headaches or neck pain were seen.

(Patient's Name) is a 37-year-old male whose medical history prior to the 7/14/97 MVA is reflected above. The patient's updated medical chronology is attached for your review. According to the 7/25/97 initial evaluation performed by Dr. Anthony, Tim had good strength,

good ROM, no muscle spasms, no motor strength deficits, and the SLR (straight leg raise test) was normal. His diagnosis was cervical sprain/strain, possible cervicogenic headaches, and possible mild head injury syndrome. His disability was anticipated to be temporary and MMI (maximum medical improvement) was estimated at 4-6 weeks. Medication was prescribed, and Tim was supposed to undergo physical therapy modalities at Ellis Rehab in Grand Saline. Please note that there were no records from Ellis Rehab provided for review.

On 11/4/97 (which was long after Dr. Anthony's anticipated recovery), Tim had a trigger point at C2-3 with some decreased ROM at the neck. Please note that these records do not indicate any type of employment or whether or not he returned to work between 7/25/97 and 11/4/97.

On 12/17/97, a selective nerve root block was performed at C3-4 on the right with good pain relief. By 1/22/98, the patient was noted as improving. However, in March of 1998, Tim still complained of ongoing symptoms and an MRI was performed. The MRI of the cervical spine revealed a bulge at C3-4 with the "possibility" of impingement upon the right neural foramina. Electro-diagnostic studies to include SSEP's and an EMG were recommended. Somatosensory Evoked Potential (SSEP) and EMG studies suggested problems at C7 nerve root which is not the C3-4 level.

In April of 1998, Tim's symptoms decreased and the patient was discharged in May of 1998. Dr. Fults noted in the Discharge Summary that the patient developed some involuntary type muscle spasms in the right arm with radiation into the right fourth digit during the early course of his treatment. It would appear that something else happened along the way as Dr. Anthony's initial evaluation was mostly unremarkable. I would point out that most of the office pages with any signatures are signed by Dr. Anthony or J. T. Meegan, a Physician Assistant. There was only one page that was stamped with Fults' signature, the Electro-Diagnostic Studies dated 3/17/98.

Cervical epidural injections were recommended and the patient was referred for physical therapy. Medication was prescribed and Tim utilized a home medical unit to decrease the pain, spasms, and rigidity in the neck and upper shoulders.

After stating that Tim would not be considered a surgical candidate, the doctor estimated that \$30,000 to \$40,000 could be spent in the event that a "surgical procedure" needed to be performed. There is no indication of the precise "surgical procedure" and it is doubtful that Fults would be performing surgery.

On 9/23/98, the patient returned to Dr. Garrett, stating that he had had a headache for a year. On 11/30/98, Tim was still having trouble with his neck. On 12/23/98, the patient wanted medication for headaches. The patient's medical records conclude at that point.

***Medical Summary:***

- ◆ The amount of medical expenses appears to be \$643.31 for prescriptions. The expenses for Physicians Pain Management and the visits to Dr. Garrett after the accident are unknown.
- ◆ As far as injuries are concerned, the patient sustained a cervical sprain/ strain, possible cervicogenic headaches, and a possible mild head injury syndrome. The bulge at C3-4 could have been pre-existing. As noted earlier, Tim had either one or two prior MRI's, and those results are not known. It would be important to determine if the bulge at C3-4 as well as the possible neural foramina impingement existed on the prior MRI's. If they are pre-existing, then the patient has sustained only a cervical sprain/strain and headaches. If they were not pre-existing, then the bulge at C3-4 could have been caused by the accident. Also, with the notations from Dr. Garrett about Tim's prior on-the-job injury, one would be less inclined to believe the MVA caused the bulge until it is documented whether or not the prior x-rays evidenced the bulge and possible impingement.

Should you have any questions, please give me a call. Thanks.