

## **Preauthorization Program Description**

The Wyoming Division of Workers' Compensation's preauthorization program applies to any claims approved for benefits. The Division initiates a utilization review process of comparing requests for surgeries and medical care services to treatment guidelines that are deemed appropriate for such services, and includes a determination based on that comparison. The goal of the program is to support the Division's mission to ensure medically necessary care for injured workers and appropriate reimbursements in accordance with the Division's fee schedules.

Medical utilization review at the first level is performed by a registered nurse(s). If the proposed treatment(s) does not meet the guidelines, the nurse may contact the requesting health care provider to discuss applicable criteria, or may request appropriate additional information that is necessary to render a decision. Additionally, the nurse may forward the preauthorization request to a specialty physician for further clinical review. This event would occur when it appears the complexity of clinical findings exceeds the specificity of the treatment guideline criteria, the Treatment Guidelines are not met, or the Treatment Guidelines note a required peer review. The physician would review the injured worker's file and diagnostics. A determination from the reviewing physician would then be recommended to the preauthorization nurse.

The Division will use Treatment Guidelines as developed by community based actively practicing physicians, and as adopted by the Division's Medical Commission. The Treatment Guidelines shall reflect practices that are evidence and scientifically based, nationally recognized, and peer reviewed. The Treatment Guidelines are designed to assist providers by offering a framework for the evaluation and treatment of injured worker's; as well as, implement a consistent set of criteria for treatment determinations between division staff and providers. The preauthorization nurse will use the Treatment Guidelines to approve, deny, or delay the requested surgery/procedure. The Treatment Guidelines will be made available to all providers and injured workers by on-line access at <http://www.wyomingworkforce.org/providers/preauth/> or by calling the Division at (307) 777-3630, (307) 777-6204 or (307) 777-5266 to request a hard copy.

NOTE: There may not be a Treatment Guideline for a requested procedure