

LNI PROVIDER BULLETIN: PB 08-01 Effective June 15, 2008, Discography for Chronic Low Back Pain and Lumbar Degenerative Disc Disease is not covered

Effective June 15, 2008, Discography in the assessment of chronic low back pain or lumbar degenerative disc disease is not covered.

This decision implements the findings of the State Health Technology Clinical Committee (HTCC)

The State Health Technology Clinical Committee reviewed discography on February 15, 2008. The committee's determination, based on a systematic review of the evidence of safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness, is that discography is not covered for patients with chronic low back pain or lumbar degenerative disc disease.

For access to the complete HTCC committee determination visit the Website:
<http://www.hta.hca.wa.gov/>

Discography requires prior authorization for patients with any other condition(s) including the following:

- Radiculopathy
- Functional neurologic deficits (motor weakness or EMG findings of radiculopathy)
- Spondylolisthesis (>Grade 1)
- Isthmic spondylolysis
- Primary neurogenic claudication associated with stenosis
- Fracture, tumor, infection, inflammatory disease
- Degenerative disease associated with significant spinal deformity

Beginning June 15, 2008 all requests for discography will be reviewed by L&I's utilization review (UR) vendor (Qualis) for State Fund or a nurse consultant for the Crime Victims Compensation Program.

For access to **updated** and complete information about this coverage decision visit the L&I Website:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Treatment/CovMedDev/SpecCovDec/default.asp>

To print a copy of Provider Bulletin PB 08-01 visit the L&I Website:

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Providers/Billing/ProvBulletins/default.asp> with an issue date 2008/05.

HSA: Improving workers' access to affordable quality health care to minimize the social and economic impacts of workplace injuries.