

Colossus and Medical Management: Part 2

This newsletter is a follow-up on my last Colossus newsletter. The feedback was tremendous from the first newsletter and for that reason I will continue on this topic for a while. The number one question posed to me was to define some of the specific “factors” discussed in the first newsletter regarding the dissection sheet. To address this, I will devote this newsletter to the dissection sheets use by carriers to organize the accident data

To refresh your memory, the dissection sheet is a short form that essentially represents a summary of the most significant factors to be entered into the Colossus program. It is in no way comprehensive and still very subject to the adjuster or data entry person’s ability to gather the information from the doctors reports and all available records. For this reason, the philosophy of organizing the reports and records in an easily digestible format still remains of primary importance. If this data is not readily available for the carrier to enter on the dissection sheet it is unlikely that the information will be entered into the computer and considered by Colossus.

FACTORS INCLUDE:

Geographic Region

Lost Wages

Attorney Representation

Limb Dominance

Pre-existing injury (< or > 24 months)

Subsequent Injury

Date of 1st treatment and last treatment

Delays/gaps in care

Duties Under Duress

Specialty Care

Number of visits

Imaging Studies

Complication of Injuries (ex. delayed healing)

Future Care requirements

Vehicle Damage: Light, Moderate, Major ,Pedestrian

Severity of Impact: Minor, Moderate, Severe

Liability: Clear, Unclear, Contested, Aggravated

Aggravating Factors: Seatbelt use, Intoxication, Pregnancy, Helmet, (motorcycle), Defendant leaving scene, Defendant being bad witness, High speed, Trial lawyer history

Injuries: (aka Diagnosis) ICDA codes on first date of service.

General Injury Category: Amputation, Concussion, Crush, Extensive Soft Tissue, Degloving,, Contusion, Soft tissue, Whiplash, Disc Injury, Dislocation, Fracture/Dislocation, Fracture, Lacerating/Penetrating Injury, Ligament, Tendon injury ,Superficial , Sprain

Complaints: None, Muscle Spasms, Restriction of Motion, Radiating Pain, Headaches, Dizziness, Vision Disturbance, TMJ pain, Anxiety, Depression, Neurosis, loss of ROM, radiation of pain,

Treatment Hospitalization, confinement to bed, immobilization (short/long term), injections, TENS (how long), home traction (# of months), medications (short/long term, regular/ intermittent), casting, self exercise (short/long

term), physical therapy (must be MD or DC prescribed), MRI , Myelogram/Discogram, Epidural injections.

Impairment subjective or objective

Prognosis (big value driver) resolution undetermined, no complaints with no further treatment needed, complaints with further treatment required, guarded

This short list of factors is just the beginning of the information you need to know. I strongly recommend that you invest in the purchase of Colossus: What Every Lawyer Needs to Know written by physician/attorney Aaron DeShaw. I gathered much of the information in this newsletter from the physicians version of this book. The book can be purchased on-line through Siren Publications. Their web site is <http://colossusbooks.com/colossus.htm>. The on-line cost is \$295 and includes a “the discovery CD”

