
Medical Cost Projection

Claimant	Marsha Brody	Date of Injury	August 29, 2012
Date of Birth	Xxxxx	Requesting attorney	Tom Jones
Age	62	Date report prepared	6/21/2016
Life Expectancy	22.47 State LE Code 19---1---150	Report prepared by	Donna Crider, RN
State Jurisdiction	North Carolina	Total Medical Cost Projection	\$78,625.69

Accident Description: per information received from referring attorney

For Ms. Brody: on August 29, 2012, during the course of her employment with Lowes Home Centers, Ms. Marsha Brody stepped on a pallet with the nail exposed and fell, injuring both shoulders, lower back, both legs and buttocks.

Injury Related Conditions: listed conditions are based on information received from referring attorney:

puncture wound left foot
lower back pain buttock
pain
nocturnal pain
limping
spondylolisthesis
bilateral facet arthrosis
lumbar and cervical spasms
cervicalgia
right trapezius neck pain bilateral
hand numbness/tingling bilateral
shoulder pain
bilateral arm pain
joint tenderness
muscular skeletal pain
bilateral leg and foot pain

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Treatment history: A brief chronology of provided medical records prepared to show past medical treatment for injury related conditions and a listing of records reviewed.

Date	Provider	Notes
8/29/2012	Roberts, Jason, D.O., Primary and Urgent Care Ctr., Bluffton, NC	Office visit: evaluation for 8/29/2012 work related injury to back and right foot, antibiotic and other oral medications prescribed, intramuscular steroid injection
9/5/2012	Roberts, Jason, D.O., Primary and Urgent Care Ctr., Bluffton, NC	Office visit: oral medications
10/4/2012	Roberts, Jason, D.O., Primary and Urgent Care Ctr., Bluffton, NC	Office visit: right shoulder pain noted, ordered lumbar x---rays, ordered physical therapy
10/4/2012	Bluffton – OKatie Outpatient Center, Imaging Department, Okatie, North Carolina	Diagnostic testing: lumbar spine x---ray, see report
11/2/2012	Roberts, Jason, D.O., Primary and Urgent Care Ctr., Bluffton, NC	Office visit: continued medications, three additional weeks of physical therapy three times a week
11/27/2012	Roberts, Jason, D.O., Primary and Urgent Care Ctr., Bluffton, NC	Office visit: continued oral medications, physical therapy two times a week, referral to spine specialist
12/18/2012	Roberts, Jason, D.O., Primary and Urgent Care Ctr., Bluffton, NC	Office visit: continued medications
12/21/2012	Bluffton – OKatie Outpatient Center, Imaging Department, Okatie, North Carolina	Diagnostics: lumbar, cervical, thoracic spine x---rays, pelvic x---ray, see report
12/21/2012	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: initial consultation, discussed diagnostic tests, recommended intramuscular injection (right trapezius), brace, physical therapy two times a week times two months
1/10/2013	Beaufort Memorial Hospital, Beaufort, North Carolina	Diagnostics: MRIs of cervical, thoracic, and lumbar spine, see report
2/1/2013	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: discussed diagnostics, recommended custom fitted lumbar brace, and epidural steroid injection at L4– 5

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3/6/2013	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Procedure: transforaminal epidural steroid injection (L4-5)
3/22/2013	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit follow-up post ESI, recommended another epidural steroid injection, and to continue using brace
7/22/2013	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Prescription: home inversion table
8/17/2013	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: follow-up
8/23/2013	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: continued inversion table, patient at MMI
5/27/2014	Thorpe, William, M.D. Orthopedic Surgery, Bluffton North Carolina	Independent Medical Examination: see report
7/17/2014	Poletti, Steven, M.D., Spine Institute, Mt Pleasant, North Carolina	Independent Medical Examination: see report
10/13/2014	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: new injury, wrenched back on 8/19/14, lumbar series and MRI of the lumbar spine ordered, continued physical therapy and oral medications
11/7/2014	3.0 Tesla MRI at Belfair, Bluffton, North Carolina	Diagnostics: MRI of lumbar spine
11/17/2014	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: follow up, continued physical therapy, to consider another epidural (L3-4 and L5 - S1)
12/15/2014	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: to try Neurontin, holding off on epidural injection, continued work conditioning physical therapy
2/2/2015	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: continued work conditioning physical therapy, attempted to get Neurontin approved
10/19/2015	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: diagnostic testing ordered

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1/5/2016	Hilton Head Hospital, Hilton Head, South Carolina	Diagnostics: CT of lumbar spine and lumbar myelogram
1/11/2016	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: possible recommendations for tri-columnar osteotomies, additional steroid injections, and upper extremity brace
2/1/2016	Boatright, H. Craig, M.D., Ruben Spine Specialists, Bluffton, North Carolina	Office visit: complained again of bilateral hand numbness, discussed referral for neurosurgeon evaluation of spine
2/9/2016	Poletti, Steven, M.D., Spine Institute, Mt Pleasant, North Carolina	Independent Medical Examination: 35% whole person impairment rating, see report

Current Medical Status and Treatment: Information included in this section is based on a telephone interview with client and follows standard intake assessment methodology.

For Ms. Brody:

Physical status: Mrs. Brody is a 63 year old female that experiences daily pain to her back. She has episodic numbness and tingling to both her hands when she has her arms bent at the elbows for any length of time. After working, she rates her pain as an eight out of 10 on a visual analogue scale. Her back pain interferes with her sleep regularly.

Functional limitations: Due to her bilateral tingling and numbness in her hands, her driving ability is limited. Chronic pain and spasms in her back restrict her ability to bend or lift. She states that at the end of the day, she walks leaned over and to the side. Frequent rest periods allow her to straighten her spine somewhat.

List of current treating physicians: Ms. Doe's primary care physician is Dr. Laurel Nobel. Dr. H Craig Boatright is her spine physician.

Last diagnostics: per records reviewed

Surgery: No surgery at this time.

Status of therapy program: Mrs. Brody has had two series of physical therapy post injury. She stated that her physical pain and discomfort worsened with ordered physical therapy but she did complete both sessions.

Equipment: Mrs. Brody stated poor results from the custom fitted lumbar brace ordered by Dr. Boatright. She continues to use her employer supplied back brace while working at Lowes. She personally purchased an upper extremity brace that gives her periodic pain relief when needed.

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Medications: Mrs. Brody has not been prescribed any medication related to this injury but does take Naprosyn overu theu counter daily for her back pain.

Injections: Mrs. Brody reports that no injections are scheduled at this time.

Spinal cord stimulator: This modality has not been suggested at this time.

Home attendant care: Home attendant care not necessary at this time. Household responsibilities have changed since her injury; her husband currently performs many of the household duties she previously performed.

Vehicle modifications: Not needed at this time.

Home modification: Not needed at this time

Medical Recommendations: This section discusses medical recommendations, as documented, by current treating physicians, IME physicians, specialty physicians, or other providers.

For Ms. Brody:

Dr. Steven Poletti, IME spinal expert, recommends updating cervical MRI scanning related to her 2012 injury.

Dr. H Craig Boatright, spine physician, recommends continued use of the inversion table, possible tri---columnar osteotomies, additional steroid injections, upper extremity brace and a neurosurgical evaluation of her spine related to her bilateral hand numbness.

Future Medical Cost Projection

General Information: Cost projection specialists follow a standard methodology in determining future medical needs and costs for a future medical cost projection, which differs from life care planning methodology. The cost projection includes information obtained in medical records, discussed per client assessment, or as advised by treating physician. Additional projections are determined through standard of care treatment or case management protocol.

The following categories are considered in each/every cost projection prepared. The rationale for inclusion in the cost projection is briefly explained at the beginning of each category, with individual consideration discussed in italics.

Diagnostics: A periodic allowance for diagnostic studies, to include X---rays, MRI, and CT scans, et al, has been included, as is usual and customary for individuals with chronic medical conditions.

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For Ms. Brody: In addition to a standard of care protocol, Dr. Poletti has ordered a cervical MRI.

Laboratory: An allowance for periodic liver and kidney function studies has been included, as is usual and customary for individuals who take chronic, daily prescription or OTC medications. Urine drug studies are included for all cases where narcotics are currently prescribed.

For Ms. Brody: Standard of care protocol to be followed.

Physician: Scheduling of primary physician visits is determined by either current treatment plan, or by current formulary of prescriptions since medications are prescribed either on a 30 day or 90---day basis. Specialty physician visits are factored according to information included in medical records, from client interview, or per standard of care protocol.

For Ms. Brody: for scheduling of physician visits, see Cost Projection Worksheet.

Equipment: Equipment projections are determined by current use or recommendations with replacement scheduling according to case management protocol.

For Ms. Brody: Equipment currently used includes a custom fitted lumbar brace occasionally, an inversion table, and an upper extremity brace recommended by Dr. Boatright.

Medication: Medication projections are determined by currently prescribed formulary.

For Ms. Brody: Ms. Brody has not been prescribed any medications related to this injury but does take Naprosyn twice a day for back pain.

Therapy: An allowance has been made for physical therapy for maintenance and flare---ups as is usual and customary for individuals with chronic medical conditions. Additionally, an allowance has been made for cognitive---behavioral counseling, as is usual and customary to manage the effects of chronic pain, functional loss, and emotional impact.

For Ms. Brody: An allowance has been included for physical and/or behavioral therapy.

Home modifications: An allowance has been made to provide for safety alterations to the home, to include grab bars in the shower, for all injuries resulting in balance issues. Additional home modifications are considered in cases of extreme functional loss.

For Ms. Brody: A home modification allowance has been included.

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Injections: Conservative allowances have been included for injections based upon published pricing. It is anticipated that actual billing will be greater than the allowance. However, precise figures cannot be determined based upon confidential facility contracts with third party payers and unpublished rates and information.

For Ms. Brody: Dr. Boatright has recommended additional steroid epidural injections.

Transportation/translation services: Medical mileage reimbursement allowance is included in all worker's compensation cases since this is typically reimbursed by carrier. All cases requiring vehicle modifications, accessible vans, driving evaluations, or other transportation assistance will have full explanation specific to the individual.

For Ms. Brody: Standard North Carolina Worker's Compensation Transportation allowance included

Home attendant care: Home attendant care, skilled level nursing, and case management services will be discussed and projected if case warrants, with full explanation specific to the individual.

For Ms. Brody: None required at this time

Surgery: Conservative allowances have been included for surgical procedures – to include pre-operative work-up, surgeon, surgical assistant, anesthesia, facility, post-operative diagnostic testing, acute pain medications and physical therapy – based upon published pricing. It is anticipated that actual billing will be greater than the allowance. However, precise figures cannot be determined based upon confidential facility contracts with third party payers and unpublished rates and information.

For Ms. Brody: Dr. Boatright has recommended a possible future triu columnar osteotomy.

Spinal Cord Stimulator: Placement of a spinal cord stimulator involves several steps: a psychological clearance prior to a trial placement, a trial placement to determine efficacy, then a permanent placement of leads and battery/unit. Replacement of the battery/unit is expected every 9-10 years depending on use and unit/battery manufacturer. Annual maintenance and programming of the remote control is another cost factor associated with normal expenses of a spinal cord stimulator. Breakage, migration, repositioning, and other complications do occur but are not factored in this future medical cost projection.

For Ms. Brody: A spinal cord stimulator is not currently being considered.

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Basis of cost factoring: Costs have been researched using American Hospital Directory, Physician's Fee and Coding, goodrx.com, actual billing records, Find---a---code, MedLife, and reliable internet sources. Generic pricing for medications have been used if generic drugs are currently used. Mid---range pricing is used if costs are based on Physician's Fee and Coding. The appropriate state or federal fee schedule is utilized when applicable. Costs have not been reduced to present day value or factored for inflation.

Life expectancy is per NC state code of law.

Summary:

Ms. Brody requires lifelong medical treatment resulting from injuries received in this accident. Please see Cost Projection Worksheet for details on projected future medical treatment, which is a conservative and reasonable estimate of the future medical needs/costs for Ms. Brody. This Medical Cost Projection should be updated periodically as new information becomes available.

A Medical Cost Projection is not a Life Care Plan and is not to be used as the basis for expert testimony. Please contact MarGin Consulting, or another Life Care Planner, if expert testimony will be required.

See Future Medical Cost Projection Worksheet on following page.

Future Medical Cost Projection
Marsha Brody – xxxxxx

Category/CPT Code	Item	Units/year	Unit Cost	Yearly	Lifetime
				LE:	22.47
Diagnostics, every 5 yrs	CT, MRI, Xrays, allowance	0.2	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$2,247.00
Diagnostic, once	Cervical MRI	1	\$350.00	N/A	\$350.00
Laboratory, 85025	CBC	1	\$11.63	\$11.63	\$261.33
Laboratory, 80053	CMP	1	\$14.99	\$14.99	\$336.83
Laboratory, 36415	Venipuncture	1	\$3.50	\$3.50	\$78.65
Physician, 99205	Neurosurgeon (upper extremities)	1	\$207.00	\$207.00	\$207.00
Physician	Neurosurgical follow-up pending assessment TBA	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Physician, 99214	Orthopedic (spine)	1	\$144.00	\$144.00	\$3,235.68
Physician, 99213	Family Practice laboratory management	1	\$96.50	\$96.50	\$2,168.36
Physician, 90806	Behavioral Counseling	10 sessions	\$1,140.00	N/A	\$1,140.00
Equipment, every 5 yrs	Custom back brace	0.2	\$550.00	\$110.00	\$2,471.70
Equipment, every 2 years	Necksus - cervical support -Amazon	0.5	\$39.95	\$19.98	\$448.84
Equipment, every 5 years	Invertio Premium inversion table- Amazon	0.2	\$110.00	\$22.00	\$494.34
Medications - Generic	Naprosyn 500 mg 60/month	12	\$2.84	\$34.08	\$765.78
Therapy	allowance maintenance and flare up	Lifetime	\$1,500.00	N/A	\$1,500.00
Home mods	bathroom safety	once/life	\$500.00	N/A	\$500.00
Transportation	monthly allowance	12	\$20.00	\$240.00	\$5,392.80
Injections, inclusive allowance	lumbar steroid injections 2 level, bilateral (L3-4, L5-S1)	6 lifetime	\$1,710.00	N/A	\$10,260.00
Total non-surgical costs				\$1,003.68	\$31,858.29
Surgery, inclusive allowance	Future tri-columnar osteotomy	1	\$29,250.00		\$29,250.00
Surgery, inclusive allowance	Future hardware removal	1	\$17,517.40		\$17,517.40
Total surgical costs					\$46,767.40
Total for all future treatment costs					\$78,625.69

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