

THE CHALLENGE:

Pain management physician recommended a Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) to treat low back pain. Physician requested a psychological evaluation and provided claimant with SCS CD. There was no further reference to the SCS. According to CMS guidelines, surgical procedures are considered part of the future treatment plan if not pursued or specifically addressed. Total MSA - **\$187,822**.

Physician Follow-Up Case Study

THE SOLUTION:

Tower's Physician Follow-Up team worked with the assigned nurse to contact the treating physician's office to communicate that the Spinal Cord Stimulator (SCS) was no longer part of the future treatment plan. Physician agreed that the SCS was not medically necessary. A letter was sent to confirm discontinuation.

The letter was executed by the physician with language as follows:

"I confirm the Spinal Cord Stimulator is no longer part of the treatment plan."

In follow up, the MSA was revised to exclude the SCS and the written confirmation was included in the narrative portion of the allocation.



THE RESULTS:

Once updated to exclude the surgical procedure above, total MSA allocation was reduced to **\$23,127** and submitted to **CMS**. In its review, **CMS** accepted **Tower's** physician letter as evidence that the SCS was no longer medically necessary and approved the **MSA** in full. This resulted in a savings of **\$164,695**.

Tower's **Physician Follow-Up** service is provided at no charge when initiated as part of the MSA and CMS submission process.

