

PRESENT COMPLAINTS: , The patient is reporting ongoing, chronic right-sided back pain, pain that radiates down her right leg intermittently. She is having difficulty with bending and stooping maneuvers. She cannot lift heavy objects. She states she continues to have pain in her right neck and pain in her right upper extremity. She has difficulty with pushing and pulling and lifting with her right arm. She describes an intermittent tingling sensation in the volar aspect of her right hand. She states she has diminished grip strength in her right hand because of wrist pain complaints. She states that the Wellbutrin samples I had given her previously for depression seem to be helping. Her affect appears appropriate. She reports no suicidal ideation. She states she continues to use Naprosyn as an anti-inflammatory, Biofreeze ointment over her neck and shoulder and back areas of complaints. She also takes Imitrex occasionally for headache complaints related to her neck pain. She also takes Flexeril occasionally for back spasms and Darvocet for pain. She is asking for a refill on some of her medications today. She is relating a VAS pain score regarding her lower back at a 6-7/10 and regarding her neck about 3/10, and regarding her right upper extremity about a 4/10., **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:** , She is afebrile. Blood pressure is 106/68, pulse of 64, respirations of 20. Her physical exam is unchanged from 03/21/05. Her orthopedic exam reveals full range of motion of the cervical spine. Cervical compression test is negative. Valsalva's maneuver is negative. Hoffmann's sign is negative. DTRs are +1 at the biceps, brachioradialis and trapezius bilaterally. Her sensation

is grossly intact to the upper extremity dermatomes. Motor strength appears 5/5 strength in the upper extremity muscle groups tested.,Phalen's and Tinel's signs are negative at both wrists. Passive range of motion of the right wrist is painful for her. Passive range of motion of the left wrist is non painful. Active range of motion of both wrists and hands are full. She is right hand dominant. Circumferential measurements were taken in her upper extremities. She is 11"" in the right biceps, 10 1/2"" in the left biceps. She is 9 3/4"" in both right and left forearms. Circumferential measurements were also taken of the lower extremities. She is 21"" at both the right and left thighs, 15"" in both the right and left calves. Jamar dynamometry was assessed on three tries in this right-hand-dominant individual. She is 42/40/40 pounds on the right hand with good effort, and on the left is 60/62/60 pounds, suggesting a loss of at least 20% to 25% pre-injury grip strength in the right dominant hand. , ,Examination of her lumbar trunk reveals decreased range of motion, flexion allowing her fingertips about 12"" from touching the floor. Lumbar extension is to 30 degrees. The right SLR is limited to about 80 degrees, provoking back pain, with a positive Bragard's maneuver, causing pain to radiate to the back of the thigh. The left SLR is to 90 degrees without back pain. DTRs are +1 at the knees and ankles. Toes are downgoing to plantar reflexes bilaterally. Sensation is grossly intact in the lower extremity dermatomes. Motor strength appears 5/5 strength in the lower extremity muscle groups tested., ,**IMPRESSION:** , (1) Sprain/strain injury to the lumbosacral

spine with lumbar disc herniation at L5-S1, with radicular symptoms in the right leg. (2) Cervical sprain/strain with myofascial dysfunction. (3) Thoracic sprain/strain with myofascial dysfunction. (4) Probable chronic tendonitis of the right wrist. She has negative nerve conduction studies of the right upper extremity. (5) Intermittent headaches, possibly migraine component, possibly cervical tension cephalalgia-type headaches or cervicogenic headaches.,

,TREATMENT / PROCEDURE: , I reviewed some neck and back exercises. , ,RX:, I dispensed Naprosyn 500 mg b.i.d. as an anti-inflammatory. I refilled Darvocet N-100, one tablet q.4-6 hours prn pain, #60 tablets, and Flexeril 10 mg t.i.d. prn spasms, #90 tablets, and dispensed some Wellbutrin XL tablets, 150-mg XL tablet q.a.m., #30 tablets., ,PLAN / RECOMMENDATIONS:, I told the patient to continue her medication course per above. It seems to be helping with some of her pain complaints. I told her I will pursue trying to get a lumbar epidural steroid injection authorized for her back and right leg symptoms. I told her in my opinion I would declare her Permanent and Stationary as of today, on 04/18/05 with regards to her industrial injuries of 05/16/03 and 02/10/04. , ,I understand her industrial injury of 05/16/03 is related to an injury at Home Depot where she worked as a credit manager. She had a stack of screen doors fall, hitting her on the head, weighing about 60 pounds, knocking her to the ground. She had onset of headaches and neck pain, and pain complaints about her right upper extremity. She also has a second injury, dated 02/10/04, when apparently a co-worker

was goofing around and apparently kicked her in the back accidentally, causing severe onset of back pain. , ,FACTORS

FOR DISABILITY:,OBJECTIVE: ,1. She exhibits decreased range of motion in the lumbar trunk.,2. She has an abnormal MRI revealing a disc herniation at L5-S1.,3. She exhibits diminished grip strength in the right arm and upper extremity.,

,SUBJECTIVE: ,1. Based on her headache complaints alone, would be considered occasional and minimal to slight at best.

,2. With regards to her neck pain complaints, these would be considered occasional and slight at best. ,3. Regarding her

lower back pain complaints, would be considered frequent and slight at rest, with an increase to a moderate level of pain

with repetitive bending and stooping and heavy lifting, and prolonged standing. ,4. Regarding her right upper extremity

and wrist pain complaints, these would be considered occasional and slight at rest, but increasing to slight to

moderate with repetitive gripping, grasping, and torquing maneuvers of her right upper extremity. ,LOSS OF

PRE-INJURY CAPACITY: , The patient advises that prior to her industrial dates of injury she was capable of repetitively

bending and stooping and lifting at least 60 pounds. She states she now has difficulty lifting more than 10 or 15 pounds

without exacerbating back pain. She has trouble trying to repetitively push or pull, torque, twist and lift with the right

upper extremity, due to wrist pain, which she did not have prior to her industrial injury dates. She also relates

headaches, which she did not have prior to her industrial

injury. , ,WORK RESTRICTIONS AND DISABILITY: , I would

find it reasonable to place some permanent restrictions on this patient. It is my opinion she has a disability precluding heavy work, which contemplates the individual has lost approximately half of her pre-injury capacity for performing such activities as bending, stooping, lifting, pushing, pulling and climbing or other activities involving comparable physical effort. The patient should probably no lift more than 15 to 20 pounds maximally. She should probably not repetitively bend or stoop. She should avoid repetitive pushing, pulling or torquing maneuvers, as well as gripping and grasping maneuvers of the right hand. She should probably not lift more than 10 pounds repetitively with the right upper extremity. I suspect that prior to her industrial she could lift repetitively and push, pull, torque and twist at least 20 to 25 pounds with the right upper extremity. , ,CAUSATION AND APPORTIONMENT:, With regards to issues of causation, they appear appropriate to her industrial injuries and histories given per the 05/16/03 and the 02/10/04 injuries., ,With regards issues of apportionment, it is my opinion that 100% of her pain complaints are industrially related to her industrial injuries of 05/16/03 and 02/10/04. There does not appear to be any apportionable issues here.