



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645
512-804-4000 telephone • 512-804-4811 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov

MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name

Texas Orthopedic Hospital

Respondent Name

Texas Mutual Insurance Co

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-10-1700-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 54

MFDR Date Received

November 12, 2009

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "...it is the position of the Provider that all charges relating to the admission of this claimant are due and payable and not subject to the improper reductions taken by the carrier in this case."

Amount in Dispute: \$3,000.14

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The requestor reports additional payment due regarding the disputed services. The requestor failed to report that an additional discount off the MAR was taken consistent with a Focus PPO contract. Further, the requestor has not produced any documentation substantiating there was no such PPO contract in place at the time of the disputed date or that the amount of discount is incorrect."

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
November 12 – 3, 2008	Inpatient Hospital Surgical Services	\$3,000.14	\$38.21

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

- 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving a medical fee dispute.
- 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.404 sets out the guidelines for reimbursement of hospital facility fees for inpatient services.
- The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
 - 45 – Charge exceeds fee schedule/maximum allowable or contracted/legislated fee arrangement
 - 97 – The benefit for this service is included in the payment/allowance for another service/procedure that has already been adjudicated
 - 217 – The value of this procedure is included in the value of another procedure performed on this date
 - 793 – Reduction due to PPO contract. PPO contract was applied by Focus/First Health
 - 891 – The insurance company is reducing or denying payment after reconsideration

Issues

1. Were the disputed services subject to a specific fee schedule set in a contract between the parties that complies with the requirements of Labor Code §413.011?
2. Which reimbursement calculation applies to the services in dispute?
3. What is the maximum allowable reimbursement for the services in dispute?
4. Is the requestor entitled to additional reimbursement for the disputed services?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier reduced or denied disputed services with reason code 45 – “Charge exceeds fee schedule/maximum allowable or contracted/legislated fee arrangement,” and 793 – “Reduction due to PPO contract. PPO contract was applied by Focus/First Health.” Review of the submitted information found insufficient documentation to support that the disputed services were subject to a contractual fee arrangement between the parties to this dispute. Nevertheless, on November 3, 2010, the Division requested the respondent to provide a copy of the referenced contract as well as documentation to support notification to the healthcare provider, as required by 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.4, that the insurance carrier had been given access to the contracted fee arrangement. Review of the submitted information finds that the documentation does not support notification to the healthcare provider in the time and manner required, nor does the documentation support that the respondent had been granted access to the health care provider’s contracted fee arrangement during the time of the disputed services. The notice does not include the name, physical address, and telephone number of any person given access to the network’s fee arrangement with the health care provider as required by §133.4(d)(2)(A). The notice does not include the start date and any end date during which the respondent had been given access to the contracted fee arrangement as required by §133.4(d)(2)(B). The notification letter is not dated. No explanation or documentation was found to support the contents of the submitted postmarked envelope, nor is the envelope addressed to the health care provider. No documentation was found to support receipt of the notification by the health care provider. Neither the signature date, the postmark date, nor the receipt date can be established from the submitted documentation to support delivery to the health care provider in accordance with the requirements of §133.4(e) and 28 Texas Administrative Code §§102(p) and (h). Thorough review of the submitted documentation finds no convincing evidence of timely notification in accordance with §133.4(f). The Division concludes that, pursuant to §133.4(g), the insurance carrier is not entitled to pay the health care provider at a contracted fee. Consequently, per §133.4(h), the disputed services will be reviewed for payment in accordance with applicable Division rules and fee guidelines. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.404(e) states that: “Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, regardless of billed amount, reimbursement shall be:
(1) the amount for the service that is included in a specific fee schedule set in a contract that complies with the requirements of Labor Code §413.011; or
(2) if no contracted fee schedule exists that complies with Labor Code §413.011, the maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) amount under subsection (f) of this section, including any applicable outlier payment amounts and reimbursement for implantables.”

No documentation was found to support the existence of a contractual agreement between the parties to this dispute; therefore the MAR can be established under §134.404(f).

2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.404(f) states that “The reimbursement calculation used for establishing the MAR shall be the Medicare facility specific amount, including outlier payment amounts, determined by applying the most recently adopted and effective Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) reimbursement formula and factors as published annually in the Federal Register. The following minimal modifications shall be applied.
(1) The sum of the Medicare facility specific reimbursement amount and any applicable outlier payment amount shall be multiplied by:
(A) 143 percent; unless
(B) a facility or surgical implant provider requests separate reimbursement in accordance with subsection (g) of this section, in which case the facility specific reimbursement amount and any applicable outlier payment amount shall be multiplied by 108 percent.”

No documentation was found to support that the facility requested separate reimbursement for implantables; nor was the “Delivered Good Order Form” certified with statement, “I hereby certify under penalty of law that the following is the true and correct actual cost to the best of my knowledge” as required by 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.404(g)(1). For that reason the MAR is calculated according to §134.404(f)(1)(A).

3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.404(f)(1)(A) establishes MAR by multiplying the most recently adopted and effective Medicare Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) reimbursement formula and factors

(including outliers) by 143%. Information regarding the calculation of Medicare IPPS payment rates may be found at <http://www.cms.gov>. Documentation found supports that the DRG assigned to the services in dispute is 512, and that the services were provided at Texas Orthopedic Hospital. Consideration of the DRG, location of the services, and bill-specific information results in a total Medicare facility specific allowable amount of \$5,243.67. This amount multiplied by 143% results in a MAR of \$7,498.45.

4. The division concludes that the total allowable reimbursement for the services in dispute is \$7,498.45. The respondent issued payment in the amount of \$7,460.24. Based upon the documentation submitted, additional reimbursement in the amount of \$38.21 is recommended.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the division finds that the requestor has established that additional reimbursement is due.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code Sections 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute. The Division hereby ORDERS the respondent to remit to the requestor the amount of \$38.21 plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this Order.

Authorized Signature

_____	_____	October 10, 2014
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute may appeal this decision by requesting a contested case hearing. A completed **Request for a Medical Contested Case Hearing** (form **DWC045A**) must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party**.

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.