Texas Department of Insurance
Division of Workers' Compensation
Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645
518-804-4000 telephone • 512-804-4811 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov

MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

STEVEN JACKSON THORNTON
8210 WALNUT HILL LN STE 130
DALLAS TX 75231

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Texas Mutual Insurance Co
Box Number 54

MFDR Tracking Number

M4114692

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "Chondromalacia claimed not w/c injury. See letter showing how how [sic] it is a part of the injury & see court case attached when an insurance company was overruled when stating this diagosis not compensable."

Amount in Dispute: $1113.01

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Texas Mutual denied payment for the chondroplasty performed 5/9/11 because it has been disputed as unrelated to the compensable injury. Until the chondromalacia has been fully and finally adjudicated as compensable no payment is due."

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual Insurance Co., 6210 E. Hwy290, Austin, TX 78723

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
MAY 09, 2011 to MAY 09, 2011	Professional Services	$1113.01	$0.00

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

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305 sets forth general provisions regarding dispute of medical bills.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1 sets out the procedures for requesting and setting a Benefit Review Conference.
4. EOBs submitted with the requestor's dispute indicate the respondent has raised issues of Compensability, Extent, and/or Liability.

Issues

1. Did the requestor file for medical fee dispute resolution in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305 and §133.307?
2. Is the requestor eligible for medical fee dispute resolution under 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307?

Findings

1. The requestor filed a dispute with the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution section at the Division on AUG 08, 2011.
2. According to 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305(a)(4), a medical fee dispute is a dispute that involves an amount of payment for non-network health care rendered to an injured employee (employee) for health care determined to be medically necessary and appropriate for treatment of that employee's compensable injury. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305(b) goes on to state that "If a dispute regarding compensability, extent of injury, liability, or medical necessity exists for the same service for which there is a medical fee dispute, the disputes regarding compensability, extent of injury, liability or medical necessity shall be resolved prior to the submission of a medical fee dispute for the same services in accordance with Labor Code §413.031 and 408.021." 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(e)(3)(H) requires that if the carrier has raised a dispute pertaining to compensability, extent of injury, or liability for the claim, the Division shall notify the parties of the review requirements pursuant to §124.2 of this title, and will dismiss the request until those disputes have been resolved by a final decision, inclusive of all appeals. The appropriate dispute process for unresolved issues of compensability, extent and/or liability requires filing for a Benefit Review Conference pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1 prior to requesting medical fee dispute resolution. No documentation was submitted to support that the issue(s) of compensability, extent and/or liability have been resolved as of the undersigned date.
3. The requestor has failed to support that the services are eligible for medical fee dispute resolution pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the requestor has failed to establish that the respondent's denial of payment reasons concerning liability for the injured employee's workers' compensation claim, compensability of that claim, and/or extent-of-injury issues with that claim have been resolved through the required dispute resolution process as set forth in Texas Labor Code Chapter 410 prior to the submission of a medical fee dispute for the same services. Therefore, medical fee dispute resolution staff has no authority to consider and/or order any payment in this medical fee dispute. As a result, no amount is ordered.

ORDER

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to $0.00 reimbursement for the services in dispute.

Authorized Signature

Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it 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.**