



**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](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)

**MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Requestor Name**

RGV ANESTHESIA ASSOCIATES, PA

**Respondent Name**

NORTH RIVER INSURANCE CO

**MFDR Tracking Number**

M4-13-0445-02

**Carrier's Austin Representative**

Box Number 53

**MFDR Date Received**

October 12, 2012

**REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY**

**Requestor's Position Summary:** "I am asking for final adjudication on the above reference patient claim so we may bill the patient for services rendered."

**Amount in Dispute:** \$1,100.00

**RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY**

**Respondent's Position Summary:** The Division placed a copy of the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution request in the insurance carrier's Austin representative box, which was acknowledged received on October 19, 2012. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(d)(1), "The response will be deemed timely if received by the division via mail service, personal delivery, or facsimile within 14 calendar days after the date the respondent received the copy of the requestor's dispute. If the division does not receive the response information within 14 calendar days of the dispute notification, then the division may base its decision on the available information." The insurance carrier did not submit any response for consideration in this dispute. Accordingly, this decision is based on the information available at the time of review.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

| Dates of Service | Disputed Services | Amount In Dispute | Amount Due |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| March 21, 2011   | 01400             | \$1,100.00        | \$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**

- 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305 sets forth general provisions regarding dispute of medical bills.
- 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
- 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1 sets out the procedures for requesting and setting a Benefit Review Conference.
- This request for medical fee dispute resolution was received by the Division on October 12, 2012.

5. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:

Explanation of benefits

- E – Entitlement to benefits
- W11 – Entitlement to benefits. Not finally adjudicated.

### **Issues**

1. Did the requestor waive the right to medical fee dispute resolution?
2. Was the request for medical fee dispute resolution filed in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305 and §133.307?
3. Are the disputed services eligible for medical fee dispute resolution under 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307?

### **Findings**

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c) (1) states: "Timeliness. A requestor shall timely file the request with the division's MFDR Section or waive the right to MFDR. The division shall deem a request to be filed on the date the MFDR Section receives the request. A decision by the MFDR Section that a request was not timely filed is not a dismissal and may be appealed pursuant to subsection (g) of this section. (A) A request for MFDR that does not involve issues identified in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph shall be filed no later than one year after the date(s) of service in dispute."

The date of the services in dispute is March 21, 2011. The request for medical dispute resolution was received in the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution (MFDR) section on October 12, 2012. This date is later than one year after the date(s) of service in dispute.

The Division concludes that the requestor has failed to timely file this dispute with the Division's MFDR Section; consequently, the requestor has waived the right to medical fee dispute resolution for the services in dispute.

2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305(a)(4) defines a medical fee dispute as a dispute that involves an amount of payment for non-network health care rendered to an injured employee (employee) that has been determined to be medically necessary and appropriate for treatment of that employee's compensable injury.

28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305(b) requires 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.

Review of the submitted documentation finds that there are unresolved issues of compensability, extent and/or liability for the same service(s) for which there is a medical fee dispute. No documentation was submitted to support that the issue(s) of compensability, extent and/or liability have been resolved prior to the filing of the request for medical fee dispute resolution.

The requestor has failed to support that the disputed 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 request 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

July 10, 2014

***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.**