



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name and Address

MEDICAL EQUATION INC
PO BOX 162370
AUSTIN TX 78716

Respondent Name

TEXAS MUTUAL INSURANCE CO

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-13-2986-01

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "Per the Texas Department of Insurance Division of Workers' Compensation these are billable services. The Medical Fee Guideline Rate for Appropriateness of Care is \$500.00."

Amount in Dispute: \$500.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The requestor provided required medical exam services to the claimant on the date above. The requestor billed \$500.00 for code 99456-RE. Texas Mutual received the bill on 1/17/13. Because the bill was past 95 days required by Rule 133.20, Texas Mutual declined to issue payment. The requestor resubmitted the bill four more times without any explanation or rationale addressing the lateness of the bill. Review of the DWC-60 packet reveals no explanation there either. The bill is late. No payment is due. "

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual Insurance Company.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
July 18, 2012	99456 RE	\$500.00	\$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

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20 sets out the procedures for health care providers to submit workers' compensation medical bills for reimbursement.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4 sets out the rules for non-Commission communications.
4. Texas Labor Code §408.027 sets out the rules for timely submission of a claim by a health care provider.
5. Texas Labor Code §408.0272 sets out the rules for certain exceptions for untimely submission of a claim by a health care provider.
6. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
Explanation of benefits

- CAC-29 The limit for filing has expired.
- 731- Per 133.20 provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the service. For services on or after 9/1/05.
- CAC-193 Original payment decision is being maintained upon review, it was determined that this claim was processed properly.
- 891- No additional payment after reconsideration.

Issues

1. What is the timely filing deadline applicable to the medical bills for the services in dispute?
2. Did the requestor forfeit the right to reimbursement for the services in dispute?

Findings

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20(b) states, in pertinent part, that, except as provided in Texas Labor Code §408.0272, “a health care provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the services are provided.” No documentation was found to support that any of the exceptions described in Texas Labor Code §408.0272 apply to the services in this dispute. For that reason, the requestor in this dispute was required to submit the medical bill not later than 95 days after the date the disputed services were provided.
2. Texas Labor Code §408.027(a) states, in pertinent part, that “Failure by the health care provider to timely submit a claim for payment constitutes a forfeiture of the provider's right to reimbursement for that claim for payment.” 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.4(h) states that “Unless the great weight of evidence indicates otherwise, written communications shall be deemed to have been sent on: (1) the date received, if sent by fax, personal delivery, or electronic transmission or, (2) the date postmarked if sent by mail via United States Postal Service regular mail, or, if the postmark date is unavailable, the later of the signature date on the written communication or the date it was received minus five days. If the date received minus five days is a Sunday or legal holiday, the date deemed sent shall be the next previous day which is not a Sunday or legal holiday.” Review of the submitted information finds no documentation to support that a medical bill was submitted within 95 days from the date the services were provided. Therefore, pursuant to Texas Labor Code §408.027(a), the requestor in this medical fee dispute has forfeited the right to reimbursement due to untimely submission of the medical bill for the services in dispute.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has not established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

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 disputed services.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

March 26, 2014
Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, effective May 31, 2012, *37 Texas Register 3833*, **applicable to disputes filed on or after June 1, 2012.**

A party seeking review must submit a **Request to Schedule a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision** (form **DWC045M**) in accordance with the instructions on the form. The request must be received by the Division within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the Division using the contact information listed on the form or to the field office handling the claim.

The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request 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 §141.1(d).

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