



MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION
GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name
 BRENT D DREIER DC
 809 N ESPLANADE
 CUERO TX 77954

MFDR Tracking Number
 M4-14-0957

Respondent Name
 TEXAS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

MFDR Date Received
 NOVEMBER 25, 2013

Carrier's Austin Representative
 Box Number 54

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "After performing the examination, all necessary paperwork and forms were sent to all parties involved and Texas Mutual was billed accordingly. After receiving the EOB from Texas Mutual denying payment for the exam, the adjuster was contracted by phone and she explained to me that they were not required to pay this exam because I was not in the work comp network that [injured employee] is in. I explained to Angie, the adjuster, that I was contacted to perform this examination by TDI-DWC Office of Injured Employee Council and nowhere in the paperwork could I find a work comp network mentioned... I'm filing this medial [sic] fee dispute because I acted in good faith and according to the request from the Office of Injured Employee Council authorizing me to perform the examination. As I see it all the proper procedures were followed..."

Amount in Dispute: \$1,225.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The requestor provide an MMI exam, return to work exam, extent of injury exam, and direct result exams o the date above and then billed Texas Mutual for this as a designated doctor. Texas Mutual reviewed its claim file and found no DWC32 substantiating an authorized request for a designated doctor exam from DWC... Further, Texas Mutual Claim [claim number] is in the Texas Star Network. The requestor is not a participant in that Network. Texas Mutual reviewed its claim file to determine if the requestor had out of network approval to perform the exams. None was found. Therefore, no payment is due."

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual Insurance Company

DISPUTED SERVICES SUMMARY

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Service(s)	Amount In Dispute	Amount Ordered
September 12, 2013	Professional Services	\$1,225.00	\$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 §133.305, sets out the procedures for resolving medical disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.

3. 28 Texas Insurance Code Chapter 1305 applicable to Health Care Certified Networks.

Issue

- 1. Did the Requestor obtain an out-of-network referral from the injured employee's treating doctor that has been approved by the network pursuant to Section 1305.103?
- 2. Is this dispute eligible for medical fee dispute resolution pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307?

Findings

- 1. The requestor filed this medical fee dispute to the Division asking for resolution pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §133.307 titled *MDR of Fee Disputes*. The authority of the Division of Workers' Compensation is to apply Texas Labor Code statutes and rules, including 28 TAC §133.307, is limited to the conditions outlined in the applicable portions of the Texas Insurance Code (TIC), Chapter 1305. In particular, TIC §1305.153 (c) provides that "Out-of-network providers who provide care as described by Section 1305.006 shall be reimbursed as provided by the Texas Workers' Compensation Act and applicable rules of the commissioner of workers' compensation."

Texas Insurance Code Section 1305.006 states, in pertinent part, "(3) health care provided by an out-of-network provider pursuant to a referral from the injured employee's treating doctor that has been approved by the network pursuant to Section 1305.103."

The requestor therefore has the burden to prove that the condition(s) outlined in the Texas Insurance Code §1305.006 were met in order to be eligible for dispute resolution. The following are the Division's findings.

Texas Insurance Code Section 1305.103 requires that "(e) A treating doctor shall provide health care to the employee for the employee's compensable injury and shall make referrals to other network providers, or request referrals to out-of-network providers if medically necessary services are not available within the network. Referrals to out-of-network providers must be approved by the network. The network shall approve a referral to an out-of-network provider not later than the seventh day after the date on which the referral is requested, or sooner if circumstances and the condition of the employee require expedited approval. If the network denies the referral request, the employee may appeal the decision through the network's complaint process under Subchapter I."

- 2. The requestor has the burden to prove that it obtained the appropriate approved out-of-network referral for the out-of-network healthcare it provided. Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor submitted insufficient documentation and/or no documentation to support that a referral was obtained from the treating doctor and approved by the network to treat the injured employee. The Division concludes that the requestor thereby has failed to meet the requirements of Texas Insurance Code Section 1305.103.

The Division finds that the requestor failed to prove in this case that that the requirements of Texas Insurance Code Section 1305.006(3) were met. Consequently, the services in dispute are not eligible for medical fee dispute resolution pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307.

DECISION

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties, the Division has determined that this dispute is not eligible for resolution pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Manager

September 17, 2015
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).