



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 and Address

SETON MEDICAL CTR AUSTIN
1201 WEST 38TH STREET
AUSTIN TX 78705-1006

Respondent Name

Texas Mutual Insurance Co

Carrier's Austin Representative Box

Box Number 54

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-14-1124-01

MFDR Date Received

December 17, 2013

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "It is instructive to note that in many other contexts, it is largely the person seeking treatment who determines whether or not there is an emergency. For example, TEX. INS. CODE §1301.155 states that emergency treatment is that which is rendered to: (1) placing the person's health in serious jeopardy; (2) serious impairment to bodily functions; (3) serious dysfunction of a bodily organ or part; (4) serious disfigurement: While the DWC rule does not have a "prudent layperson" standard, it is still – inevitably – largely a claimant's perception of severity that prompts him/her to seek emergency care. In the present matter, the Claimant was suffering from a recent onset of lower back pain. It is reasonable to assume that this led to the Claimant to believe that a delay in treatment would put him at risk of "serious dysfunction of any body organ or part."

Amount in Dispute: \$254.04

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Rule 133.2(a)(4)(A) states "... a medical emergency is the sudden onset of a medical condition manifested by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in: (i) placing the patient's health or bodily functions in serious jeopardy, or (ii) serious dysfunction of any body organ or part..." There, the documentation from SETON NORTHWEST HOSPITAL does not meet the criteria of the above definition."

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual Insurance Co

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
May 3, 2013	Outpatient Hospital Services	\$254.04	\$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 resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.2 defines an emergency.

3. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
- CAC-W1 – WORKERS COMPENSATION STATE FEE SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT.
 - 899 – DOCUMENTATION AND FILE REVIEW DOES NOT SUPPORT AN EMERGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 133.2
 - CAC-193 – ORIGINAL PAYMENT DECISION IS BEING MAINTAINED. UPON REVIEW, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THIS CLAIM WAS PROCESSED PROPERLY.

Issues

1. Does the disputed service(s) meet the definition of emergency service?
2. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier denied disputed services with reason code, 899 – “DOCUMENTATION AND FILE REVIEW DOES NOT SUPPORT AN EMERGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 133.2”. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.2(4)(A) states that, “a medical emergency is the sudden onset of a medical condition manifested by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in: (i) placing the patient’s health or bodily function in serious jeopardy, or (ii) serious dysfunction of any body organ or part.” The medical documentation does not meet the definition of an emergency pursuant to §133.2(4)(A). For example:
 - a. Seton Health Care *BACK PAIN OR INJURY*: Severity 5/10

The Division concludes the denial code 899 is supported.

2. Review of the medical documentation finds nothing to support there was an immediate onset of the identified medical condition “back pain” that was accompanied by acute symptoms. Requestor did not support definition of medical emergency. No additional payment can be recommended.

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 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 \$0.00 plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this order.

Authorized Signature

_____	_____	<u>February 13, 2014</u>
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	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.