



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

METHODIST HOSPITAL

Respondent Name

TRAVELERS INDEMNITY CO

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-15-0852-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 05

MFDR Date Received

November 07, 2014

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "Advent Health Partners is submitting a medical fee dispute resolution request on behalf of Methodist Hospital. We are in receipt of a denial for the above mentioned claim by Travelers Insurance for Timely filing. We are requesting that you request that they reprocess this claim with the following proof showing that patient misinformation, and extenuation circumstance, prevented the claim from being submitted within 95 days from the discharge date.

This position statement should not be denied for being submitted 1 year pas the DOS due to an extenuating circumstance-patient misinformation.

As the patient did not provide the Travelers insurance information until December 23, 2013, 500 calendar days after the DOS, it would not be fair to apply the 1 year timeframe as 365 days have not went by since obtaining the billing information."

Amount in Dispute: \$21,053.98

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "THIS REQUEST FOR MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SHOULD BE DISMISSED UNDER RULE 133.307(f)(3)(A) AND (f)(3)(D) AS THE PROVIDER FAILED TO REQUEST RECONSIDERATION PRIOR TO FILING THE REQUEST AND FAILED TO TIMELY FILE THE REQUEST WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE DATE OF SERVICE."

Response Submitted by: TRAVELERS

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
August 09, 2012 to August 11, 2012	Outpatient Hospital Services	\$21,053.98	\$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 §133.20 sets out medical bill submission procedures for health care providers.
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 claims by health care providers.
5. Texas Labor Code §408.0272 provides for certain exceptions to untimely submission of a medical bill
6. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
 - 29 – NO REASON GIVEN
 - W1 – NO REASON GIVEN
 - 937 – SERVICES NOT TIMELY FILED BY THE PROVIDER
 - CVTY – THE CHARGES HAVE BEEN PRICED IN ACCORDANCE TO A COVENTRY OWNED CONTRACT

Issue

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?
3. Did the requestor waive the right to medical fee dispute resolution?

Findings

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20(b) requires 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 has forfeited the right to reimbursement due to untimely submission of the medical bill for the disputed services.
3. 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 August 09, 2012 to August 11, 2012. The request for medical dispute resolution was received in the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution (MFDR) section on November 07, 2014. This date is later than one year after the date(s) of service in dispute. Review of the submitted documentation finds that the disputed services do not involve issues identified in §133.307(c)(1)(B). 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.

Conclusion

The Division finds that the requestor has waived the right to medical fee dispute resolution for the services in dispute, as addressed in 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(1) and (c)(1)(A). For that reason, the merits of the issues raised by the parties to this dispute have not been addressed.

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

1/30/15

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.