



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

Marc Labbe, M.D.

Respondent Name

Texas Mutual Insurance Company

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-16-2151-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 54

MFDR Date Received

March 25, 2016

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "Dr. Labbe is in the Texas Star network."

Amount in Dispute: \$703.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Texas Mutual claim ... is in the Texas Star Network... DR. MARC LABBE, M.D., billed under tax ID number 571201170. Texas Mutual reviewed its online Texas Star Network provider directory for that tax identification number, and found it to be associated with TMH PHYSICIAN ORGANIZATION, a participant in that Network. Under TMH PHYSICIAN ORGANIZATION are numerous physicians listed with tax ID 571201170. Dr. Labbe is not one of them even though Dr. Labbe is listed in the online directory with Bone & Joint Clinic of Houston under tax ID 741660214..."

Further, Texas Mutual has no evidence the requestor, a non-network provider under tax ID 571201170, received out of network approval to provide the service or treatment. Nor has the requestor provided any such evidence in its DWC-60 packet."

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual Insurance Company

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Table with 4 columns: Dates of Service, Disputed Services, Amount In Dispute, Amount Due. Row 1: October 28, 2015; Evaluation & Management, new patient (99203), Knee Injection (20610, J0702), Work Status Report (99080-73); \$703.00; \$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 Codes §§133.305 and 133.307 set out the procedures for resolving medical disputes.
2. 28 Texas Insurance Code Chapter 1305 applicable to Health Care Certified Networks.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Codes §§10.120 through 10.122 address the submission of a complaint by a health care provider to the Health Care Network.

## Issues

1. Did the in-network healthcare provider render services to an in-network injured employee?
2. Is the requestor eligible for medical fee dispute resolution pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305?
3. What may be the appropriate administrative remedy to address fee matters related to health care certified networks?

## Findings

1. The requestor billed for professional medical services rendered on October 28, 2015 to an injured employee enrolled in a certified healthcare network. Submitted documentation indicates that both the healthcare provider and the injured employee are enrolled in a certified healthcare network. The requestor seeks a decision from the Division's medical fee dispute resolution (MFDR) section. The Division finds that the disputed services were rendered by an in-network healthcare provider to an in-network injured employee.
2. The authority for MFDR to resolve matters involving employees enrolled in a certified health care network is conditional. 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** [emphasis added] health care rendered to an injured employee that has been determined to be medically necessary and appropriate for treatment of that injured employee's compensable injury. The dispute is resolved by the Division pursuant to Division rules, including §133.307 of this title (relating to MDR of Fee Disputes)." The Division defines non-network health care in paragraph (a)(6) of the same rule as "Health care not delivered or arranged by a certified workers' compensation health care network as defined in Insurance Code Chapter 1305 and related rules ..." That is, the Divisions medical fee dispute resolution section, may address disputes involving health care provided to an injured employee enrolled in an HCN, only if the out-of-network health care provider was authorized by the certified network to do so. Therefore, the requestor is not eligible for medical fee dispute resolution pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Codes §§10.120 through 10.122 address the submission of a complaint by a health care provider to the Health Care Network. The Division finds that the disputed services rendered by an in-network healthcare provider to an in-network injured employee may be filed to the Texas Department of Insurance's (TDI) Complaint Resolution Process, if the health care provider or facility is dissatisfied with the outcome of the network complaint process. The complaint process outlined in Texas Insurance Code Subchapter I, §1305.401 - §1305.405 may be the appropriate administrative remedy to address fee matters related to health care certified networks.

## Conclusion

The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution. This finding is based upon a review of all the evidence presented by the parties in this dispute. Even though not all the evidence was discussed, it was considered. The Division finds that this dispute is not eligible for medical fee dispute resolution under 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307.

## **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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Garnes  
Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
May 12, 2016  
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).