



**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**

AHMED KHALIFA, MD

**Respondent Name**

WC SOLUTIONS

**MFDR Tracking Number**

M4-16-3122-01

**Carrier's Austin Representative**

Box Number 19

**MFDR Date Received**

JUNE 13, 2016

**REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY**

**Requestor's Position Summary:** "The carrier has not paid this claim in accordance and compliance with TDI-DWC Rule 133 and 134."

**Amount in Dispute:** \$272.70

**RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY**

**Respondent's Position Summary:** "There is no documentation that an evaluation or consult was requested by the designated doctor. The designated doctor examination provides the components necessary for evaluation and management. As such, a separate charge for an evaluation exceeds the designated doctor referral...HCPCS code A4556 was denied with CARC reduction code of P14. When electrodes are incident to a physician's service, they are not separately payable."

**Response Submitted By:** Starr Comprehensive Solutions, Inc.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
January 20, 2016	CPT Code 99204 New Patient Office Visit	\$247.70	\$0.00
	CPT Code 95886 Needle EMG	\$0.00	\$0.00
	CPT Code 95909 Nerve Conduction Studies (5-6)	\$0.00	\$0.00
	HCPCS Code A4556 Electrodes	\$25.00	\$0.00
TOTAL		\$272.70	\$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 §134.203, effective March 1, 2008, sets the reimbursement guidelines for the disputed service.
3. The services in dispute were reduced / denied by the respondent with the following reason code:
  - 165-Payment denied /reduced for absence of, or exceeded referral.
  - P14-The Benefit for this Service is included in the payment/allowance for another service/procedure that has been performed on the same day.
  - P14-No separate allowance for A4556.
  - 165-An office visit exceeds the referral. The designated doctor referred the patient for EMG/NCV only. Documentation does not support that Dr. Anello D'Ambra requested a separate evaluation and management service.

### **Issues**

1. Did the requestor exceed the Designated Doctor's referral?
2. Does the documentation support billing CPT code 99204?
3. Is the benefit for HCPCS code A4556 included in the benefit of another service billed on the disputed date? Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement for HCPCS code A4556?

### **Findings**

1. The issue in dispute is whether the requestor is due reimbursement for CPT code 99204 defined as "Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires these 3 key components: A comprehensive history; A comprehensive examination; Medical decision making of moderate complexity. Counseling and/or coordination of care with other physicians, other qualified health care professionals, or agencies are provided consistent with the nature of the problem(s) and the patient's and/or family's needs. Usually, the presenting problem(s) are of moderate to high severity. Typically, 45 minutes are spent face-to-face with the patient and/or family."

According to the explanation of benefits, the respondent denied reimbursement for CPT code 99204 based upon reason code "165-Payment denied /reduced for absence of, or exceeded referral" and "165-An office visit exceeds the referral. The designated doctor referred the patient for EMG/NCV only. Documentation does not support that Dr. Anello D'Ambra requested a separate evaluation and management service."

The respondent contends that reimbursement is not due because "There is no documentation that an evaluation or consult was requested by the designated doctor. The designated doctor examination provides the components necessary for evaluation and management. As such, a separate charge for an evaluation exceeds the designated doctor referral."

The Division reviewed the submitted documentation and finds that the requestor noted on the Electromyography (EMG ) Report that "The above examinee was referred for Electromyography Testing (EMG/NCV)..." The requestor did not submit a copy of the Designated Doctor's referral to support that an evaluation and management service was requested; therefore, the respondents' denial based upon reason code "165" is supported.

2. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203(a)(5), "Medicare payment policies" when used in this section, shall mean reimbursement methodologies, models, and values or weights including its coding, billing, and reporting payment policies as set forth in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) payment policies specific to Medicare."

On the disputed date of service, the requestor also billed for a nerve conduction study CPT code 95910 and EMG, CPT code 95886. Although the requestor noted on the Table of Disputed Services, CPT code 95909, the bill and explanation of benefits, indicate CPT code 95910 was billed.

Per Medicare fee schedule, CPT code 95886 has a global surgery period of “ZZZ” and code 95910 has “XXX”. The National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual, effective January 1, 2016, Chapter I, General Correct Coding Policies, section D, states:

All procedures on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule are assigned a Global period of 000, 010, 090, XXX, YYY, ZZZ, or MMM. The global concept does not apply to XXX procedures. The global period for YYY procedures is defined by the Carrier (A/B MAC processing practitioner service claims). All procedures with a global period of ZZZ are related to another procedure, and the applicable global period for the ZZZ code is determined by the related procedure... Procedures with a global surgery indicator of “XXX” are not covered by these rules. Many of these “XXX” procedures are performed by physicians and have inherent pre-procedure, intra-procedure, and post-procedure work usually performed each time the procedure is completed. This work should never be reported as a separate E&M code. Other “XXX” procedures are not usually performed by a physician and have no physician work relative value units associated with them. A physician should never report a separate E&M code with these procedures for the supervision of others performing the procedure or for the interpretation of the procedure. With most “XXX” procedures, the physician may, however, perform a significant and separately identifiable E&M service on the same date of service which may be reported by appending modifier 25 to the E&M code. This E&M service may be related to the same diagnosis necessitating performance of the “XXX” procedure but cannot include any work inherent in the “XXX” procedure, supervision of others performing the “XXX” procedure, or time for interpreting the result of the “XXX” procedure. Appending modifier 25 to a significant, separately identifiable E&M service when performed on the same date of service as an “XXX” procedure is correct coding.

The Division finds that the requestor did not identify a significant and separate E&M service to support billing CPT code 99204 in conjunction with CPT codes 95886 and 95910. In addition, the requestor did not append modifier 25 to CPT code 99204 per the correct coding guidelines. Therefore, the Division finds that the requestor’s documentation did not support billing CPT code 99204. As a result, reimbursement is not recommended.

2. HCPCS code A4556 is defined as “Electrodes (e.g., apnea monitor), per pair.”

The respondent denied reimbursement for HCPCS code A4556 based upon reason code “P14-The Benefit for this Service is included in the payment/allowance for another service/procedure that has been performed on the same day” and “No separate allowance for A4556.”

The respondent reaffirms denial in position summary stating “When electrodes are incidental to a physician’s service, they are not separately payable.”

Per Medicare guidelines, Transmittal B-03-020, effective February 28, 2003 if Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) HCPCS codes are incidental to the physician service, it is not separately payable. A review of the submitted documentation does not support a separate service to support billing HCPCS code A4556. As a result, reimbursement is not recommended.

### **Conclusion**

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has not established that additional reimbursement is due.

**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

\_\_\_\_\_  
6/30/2016  
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, 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 MFDR 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.**