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
Memorial Compounding Pharmacy

Respondent Name
Old Republic Insurance Company

MFDR Tracking Number
M4-18-1030-01

Carrier's Austin Representative
Box Number 44

MFDR Date Received
December 11, 2017

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "This bill was processed and denied for no preauthorization. The claim doesn't require prior authorization."

Amount in Dispute: $151.20

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: Submitted documentation does not include a position statement from the respondent. Accordingly, this decision is based on the information available at the time of review.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
April 11, 2017	Hydrocodone/APAP 10/325 Tablets	$151.20	$121.12

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and applicable 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 §134.502 sets out the procedures for pharmaceutical benefits.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.503 sets out the fee guidelines for pharmaceutical services.
4. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.530 sets out the closed formulary requirements for claims not subject to certified networks.
5. The insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
   - P13 – Payment reduced or denied based on workers' compensation jurisdictional regulations or payment policies…
   - HE75 – Prior Authorization Required

Issues

1. Did Old Republic Insurance Company (Old Republic) respond to the medical fee dispute?
2. Is Old Republic's reason for denial of payment supported?
3. Is Memorial Compounding Pharmacy (Memorial) entitled to reimbursement for the compound in question?

Findings

1. The Austin carrier representative for Old Republic is White Espey, PLLC. White Espey, PLLC acknowledged receipt of the copy of this medical fee dispute on December 15, 2017. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 states, in relevant part:

    (d) Responses. Responses to a request for MFDR shall be legible and submitted to the division and to the requestor in the form and manner prescribed by the division.
    (1) Timeliness. The response will be deemed timely if received by the division via mail service, personal delivery, or facsimile **within 14 calendar days after the date the respondent received the copy of the requestor's dispute** [emphasis added]. If the division does not receive the response information within 14 calendar days of the dispute notification, then the division may base its decision on the available information.

    Review of the documentation finds that no response has been received on behalf of Old Republic from White Espey, PLLC to date. The division concludes that Old Republic failed to respond within the timeframe required by §133.307(d)(1). For that reason the division will base its decision on the information available.

2. Memorial is seeking reimbursement of $151.20 for Hydrocodone/APAP 10/325 tablets dispensed on April 11, 2017. Old Republic denied the disputed drug with claim adjustment reason code HE75 – "Prior Authorization Required."

    28 Texas Administrative Code §134.530(b)(2) states that preauthorization is **only** required for:

    - drugs identified with a status of "N" in the current edition of the *ODG Treatment in Workers' Comp* (ODG) / Appendix A, *ODG Workers' Compensation Drug Formulary,* and any updates;
    - any compound that contains a drug identified with a status of "N" in the current edition of the *ODG Treatment in Workers' Comp* (ODG) / Appendix A, *ODG Workers' Compensation Drug Formulary,* and any updates; and
    - any investigational or experimental drug for which there is early, developing scientific or clinical evidence demonstrating the potential efficacy of the treatment, but which is not yet broadly accepted as the prevailing standard of care as defined in Labor Code §413.014(a).

    The division finds that the drug in question is not identified with a status of "N" in the current edition of the ODG, *Appendix A*. Old Republic failed to articulate any arguments to support its denial for preauthorization. Therefore, the division concludes that the disputed drug did not require preauthorization and Old Republic's denial of payment for this reason is not supported. Therefore, the drug will be reviewed for reimbursement.

3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.503 applies to the compounds in dispute and states, in pertinent part:

    (c) The insurance carrier shall reimburse the health care provider or pharmacy processing agent for prescription drugs the lesser of:
    (1) the fee established by the following formulas based on the average wholesale price (AWP) as reported by a nationally recognized pharmaceutical price guide or other publication of pharmaceutical pricing data in effect on the day the prescription drug is dispensed:
    (A) Generic drugs: ((AWP per unit) x (number of units) x 1.25) + $4.00 dispensing fee per prescription = reimbursement amount;
    (B) Brand name drugs: ((AWP per unit) x (number of units) x 1.09) + $4.00 dispensing fee per prescription = reimbursement amount;
    (C) When compounding, a single compounding fee of $15 per prescription shall be added to the calculated total for either paragraph (1)(A) or (B) of this subsection; or
    (2) notwithstanding §133.20(e)(1) of this title (relating to Medical Bill Submission by Health Care Provider), the amount billed to the insurance carrier by the:

(A) health care provider; or
(B) pharmacy processing agent only if the health care provider has not previously billed the insurance carrier for the prescription drug and the pharmacy processing agent is billing on behalf of the health care provider.

The division finds that the reimbursement for disputed drug is calculated as follows:

- Hydrocodone/APAP 10/325 tablets (0.78 x 120 x 1.25) + $4.00 = $121.12

The total reimbursement is therefore $121.12. This amount is recommended.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Division finds that the requestor has established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is $121.12.

ORDER

Based on the submitted information, pursuant to Texas Labor Code Section 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), the division has determined the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the disputed services. The division hereby ORDERS the respondent to remit to the requestor $121.12, plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this order.

Authorized Signature

	Laurie Garnes	January 25, 2018
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 Rule §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 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. **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.