



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

RIO OCCUPATIONAL INSTITUTE

Respondent Name

AMERICAN GUARANTEE & LIABILITY

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-18-2778-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

MFDR Date Received

March 30, 2018

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "2018-02-12 Received denial for time limit... 2018-01-02 PER CS, per customer service denied because drug screen was [outcome]..."

Amount in Dispute: \$679.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The carrier has denied the claim. We are attaching a copy of a PLN-1 dated June 14, 2017. We are also attaching a copy of the carrier's EOB dated February 4, 2018 that denied the medical bill. Since there is a denial of the claim (a PLN-1) the dispute regarding compensability or liability shall be resolved prior to the submission of a medical fee dispute for the same service."

Response Submitted by: Flahive, Ogden & Latson

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Table with 4 columns: Date(s) of Service, Disputed Service(s), Amount In Dispute, Amount Due. Row 1: May 19, 2017, 99204-25, 73560-LT, 73590-LT, 80305-59, 99080-73, \$679.00, \$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 Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.20 sets out the 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 insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:

Explanation of Benefits

- P12 – Workers' Compensation Jurisdictional fee schedule adjustment
• 29 – Time limit for filing has expired

Issues

1. Does the respondent's position statement address only the denial reasons presented to the requestor prior to the date the request for MFDR was filed?
2. What is the timely filing deadline applicable to the medical bills for the services in dispute?
3. Did the requestor forfeit the right to reimbursement for the services in dispute?

Findings

1. The requestor seeks reimbursement for professional services rendered on May 19, 2017. The insurance carrier denied the disputed services with denial reduction code "29 – Time limit for filing has expired." The insurance carrier in the position summary states in pertinent part, "The carrier has denied the claim. We are attaching a copy of a PLN-1 dated June 14, 2017..."

28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(d)(2)(F) states "The response shall address only those denial reasons presented to the requestor prior to the date the request for MFDR was filed with the division and the other party. Any new denial reasons or defenses raised shall not be considered in the review."

The respondent submitted a position summary containing new denial reasons. The additional denial reasons identified on the position summary, "The carrier has denied the claim. We are attaching a copy of a PLN-1 dated June 14, 2017..." are not denial reasons raised during the medical bill review process, as they are not indicated on the Explanation of Benefits presented with the DWC060 request. The respondent submitted insufficient information to MFDR to support that the submitted denial reason(s) raised in their position summary were presented to the requestor or that the requestor had otherwise been informed of these new denial reasons or defenses prior to the date that the request for medical fee dispute resolution was filed with the Division; therefore, the Division concludes that the respondent has waived the right to raise such additional denial reasons or defenses. Any newly raised denial reasons or defenses shall not be considered in this review.

2. The requestor seeks reimbursement for professional services rendered on May 19, 2017. The insurance carrier denied the disputed services with denial reduction code "29 – Time limit for filing has expired." 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.
3. 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 insufficient 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.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the division finds that the requestor has not established that reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

ORDER

Based on 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

Date

May 23, 2018

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 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*** along 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