



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

Chevron Corp

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-19-0883-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

MFDR Date Received

October 16, 2018

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "The carrier denied the reconsideration based on lack of preauthorization or preauthorization was absent. These medications do not require preauthorization therefore do not need a retrospective review."

Amount in Dispute: \$726.62

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Payment has been disputed as the compound medication was not preauthorized. The compound medication would be considered investigational and/or experimental in nature and thus would require preauthorization."

Response Submitted by: Broadspire

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Table with 4 columns: Dates of Service, Disputed Services, Amount In Dispute, Amount Due. Row 1: May 28, 2018, Pharmacy Services - Compounds, \$726.62, \$726.62

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 §134.503 sets out the fee guidelines for pharmaceutical services.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.530 sets out the requirements for authorization of pharmacy services.
4. The insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
- 197 - Precertification/authorization/notification absent

Issues

1. Did the carrier preform utilization review?
2. Is the carrier's reason for denial of payment supported?
3. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement for the compound in question?

Findings

1. In their position statement the respondent states, "The compound medication would be considered investigational and/or experimental in nature and thus would require preauthorization."

The determination of a service's investigational or experimental nature is determined on a case by case basis as a utilization review pursuant to Texas Insurance Code §4201.002. Further, Texas Insurance Code §4201.002(13) states that utilization review, in relevant part, "includes a system for prospective, concurrent, or retrospective review to determine the experimental or investigational nature of health care services."

DWC found no evidence that the insurance carrier engaged in a prospective or retrospective utilization review (UR) as required by Texas Insurance Code §4201.002 in order to establish that the following compound is investigational or experimental in nature.

Because the insurance carrier failed to perform UR on the services in dispute, the requirement for preauthorization under §134.530(b)(1)(C) is not triggered in this case. The carrier's preauthorization denial is therefore not supported.

Absent any evidence that the carrier presented other defenses to requestor before medical fee dispute resolution that conform with the requirements of Title 28, Part 2, Chapter 133, Subchapter C, DWC finds that the compounds in question are eligible for reimbursement.

2. The requestor is seeking reimbursement of \$726.62 for a compound dispensed on May 28, 2018. The carrier denied the disputed compound with claim adjustment reason code 197 – "Precertification/authorization/notification absent."

For the dates of service in dispute the applicable rule is 28 TAC §134.530(b) which 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 Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation (DWC) finds that the compound rendered on the date of service in question does not include a drug identified with a status of "N" in the current edition of the ODG, *Appendix A*. Therefore, DWC concludes that the compound in question did not require preauthorization and the carrier's denial of payment for this reason is not supported. Therefore, the disputed compound will be reviewed for reimbursement.

3. 28 TAC §134.503 (c) 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: $((\text{AWP per unit}) \times (\text{number of units}) \times 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

Ingredient	NDC	Price/Unit	Total Units	AWP Formula \$134.503(c)(1)	Billed Amt \$134.503 (c)(2)	Lesser of (c)(1) and (c)(2)
Meloxicam	38779274601	\$194.67	0.18	\$43.80	\$35.04	\$35.04
Flurbiprofen	38779036209	\$36.58	4.8	\$219.48	\$175.58	\$175.58
Tramadol	38779237409	\$36.30	6	\$272.25	\$217.80	\$217.80
Cyclobenzaprine	38779039509	\$46.33	1.8	\$104.24	\$83.39	\$83.39
Bupivacaine	38779052405	\$45.60	1.2	\$68.40	\$54.72	\$54.72
Ethoxy Diglycol	38779190301	\$0.34	3	\$1.28	\$1.03	\$1.03
Versapro Cream	38779252903	\$3.20	45.02	\$157.03	\$144.06	\$144.06
Compounding Fee	N/A	\$15.00	1	N/A	\$15.00	\$15.00
					Total	\$726.62

The total reimbursement is \$726.62. This amount is recommended.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, DWC finds that the requestor has established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$726.62.

ORDER

Based on the submitted information, pursuant to Texas Labor Code Section 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), DWC has determined the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the disputed services. DWC hereby ORDERS the respondent to remit to the requestor \$726.62, plus applicable accrued interest per 28 TAC §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this order.

Authorized Signature

_____	_____	December 12, 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.