



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

Texas Health Arlington

Respondent Name

Hartford Casualty Insurance Co

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-19-1996-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 47

MFDR Date Received

December 7, 2018

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "The purpose of this letter is to inform you that payment for services provided to the above referenced patient does not comply with Chapters 134.403 and 134.404 of Texas Administrative Code."

Amount in Dispute: \$102.46

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Services were processed in accordance with Texas Guidelines, Rule 134.403."

Response Submitted by: The Hartford

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
May 25, 2018	Outpatient Therapy Services	\$102.46	\$0.00

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 §134.403 sets out the reimbursement guidelines for outpatient hospital services.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203 sets out the reimbursement guidelines for professional medical

services.

4. The insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
 - 119 – Benefit maximum for this time period or occurrence has been reached
 - 163 – The charge for this procedure exceeds the unit value and/or the multiple procedure rules
 - 906 – In accordance with clinical based coding edits (national Correct Coding Initiative/Outpatient Code Editor), component code of comprehensive medicine, evaluation and management services procedure (9000-99999) has been disallowed
 - 97 – Payment adjusted because the benefit for this service is included in the payment/allowance for another service/procedure that has already been adjudicated

Issues

1. Is the carrier's reduction/denial of payment supported?
2. What rule applies to reimbursement?
3. Is the requestor entitled to additional reimbursement?

Findings

1. The requestor is seeking additional reimbursement for outpatient therapy services performed from May 25 – 29, 2018. The carrier reduced the allowed amount as 119 – “Benefit maximum for this time period or occurrence has been reached,” 163 – “The charge for this procedure exceeds the unit value and/or the multiple procedure rules” and 906 – “In accordance with clinical based coding edits (national Correct Coding Initiative/Outpatient Code Editor), component code of comprehensive medicine, evaluation and management services procedure (9000-99999) has been disallowed.” 28 TAC §134.403 (d) states in pertinent part,

For coding, billing, reporting, and reimbursement of health care covered in this section, Texas workers' compensation system participants shall apply Medicare payment policies in effect on the date a service is provided

Review of the NCCI edits found at www.cms.gov finds Code 97530 has an unbundle relationship with code 97140. The NCCI policy manual, Chapter Eleven indicates, “The NCCI PTP edit with column one CPT code 97140 (Manual therapy techniques, one or more regions, each 15 minutes) and column two CPT code 97530 (Therapeutic activities, direct patient contact, each 15 minutes) is often bypassed by utilizing modifier 59. Use of modifier 59 with the column two CPT code 97530 of this NCCI PTP edit is appropriate only if the two procedures are performed in distinctly different 15 minute intervals. The two codes cannot be reported together if performed during the same 15 minute time interval.” The submitted medical bill does not include a modifier. The carrier's denial is supported for date of service May 29, 2018 for Code 97530.

Review of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Internet-Only-Manuals-IOMs.html>, Chapter 5 - Part B Outpatient Rehabilitation and CORF/OPT Services 20.2 – D, which states in pertinent part,

Reporting of Service Units With HCPCS, D. Specific Limits for HCPCS. The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, section 5107 requires the implementation of clinically appropriate code edits to eliminate improper payments for outpatient therapy services. The following codes may be billed, when covered, only at or below the number of units indicated on the chart per treatment day.

The codes in dispute 97110, and 97140 are not listed on this chart. The services in dispute will be reviewed per applicable fee guideline shown below.

2. The applicable Division Rule is found in 28 Texas Administrative Code 134.403. The applicable sections are listed below:

(d) For coding, billing, reporting, and reimbursement of health care covered in this section, Texas workers' compensation system participants shall apply Medicare payment policies in effect on the date a service is provided

(f) The reimbursement calculation used for establishing the MAR shall be the Medicare facility specific amount, including outlier payment amounts, determined by applying the most recently adopted and effective Medicare Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) reimbursement formula and factors as published annually in the Federal Register.

(h) For medical services provided in an outpatient acute care hospital, but not addressed in the Medicare payment policies as outlined in subsections (f)(1) or (f)(2) of this section, and for which Medicare reimburses using other Medicare fee schedules, reimbursement shall be made using the applicable Division Fee Guideline in effect for that service on the date the service was provided.

The OPPS reimbursement formula factors are found at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HospitalOutpatientPPS/Addendum-A-and-Addendum-B-Updates.html>. The specific factor is the Status Indicators. The status indicator for each of the HCPCs code listed on the DWC060 have an "A" status indicator which is defined as, "Not paid under OPPS. Paid by MACs under a fee schedule or payment system other than OPPS."

Based on the requirements of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.403 (h) the applicable Division fee guideline is found in 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203.

Compliance with 28 Texas Administrative Code 134.403 (d) requires application of the Medicare Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR) implemented April 1, 2013. The MPPR policy may be found in the CMS Claims Processing Manual 100-04, Chapter 5, section 10.7 found at www.cms.gov. The MPPR policy was used in the calculation of the maximum allowable reimbursement shown below.

3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.203 (c) (1) states.

To determine the MAR for professional services, system participants shall apply the Medicare payment policies with minimal modifications.

(1) For service categories of Evaluation & Management, General Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Radiology, Pathology, Anesthesia, and Surgery when performed in an office setting, the established conversion factor to be applied is (date of service yearly conversion factor).

The MAR is calculated by the DWC Conversion Factor of 58.31/Medicare Conversion Factor 35.9996 multiplied by the Medicare allowable. **To ensure the appropriate application of the MPPR reductions all services billed for each date will be calculated.** The calculation is as follows:

- Procedure code 97110 billed May 25, 2018 has a PE of 0.4 not the highest for this date and will be paid at the reduced rate of \$23.95. $58.31/35.9996 \times \$23.95 = \38.79
- Procedure code 97110 billed May 29, 2018 has a PE of 0.4 the highest for this date and will be paid at the full allowable of \$31.05. $58.31/35.9996 \times \$31.05 = \50.29
- Procedure code 97140 billed May 25, 2018 has a PE of 0.35 not the highest for this date and will be paid at the reduced rate of \$22.07. $58.31/35.9996 \times \$22.07 = \35.75
- Procedure code 97140 billed May 29, 2018 has a PE of 0.35 not the highest for this date and will be paid at the reduced rate of \$22.07. $58.31/35.9996 \times \$22.07 = \35.75

The total allowable reimbursement for the services in dispute is \$160.58. The carrier paid \$160.58. No additional payment is recommended.

Conclusion

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

ORDER

Based on the submitted information, pursuant to Texas Labor Code Section 413.031, the division hereby determines the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 additional reimbursement for the services in dispute.

Authorized Signature

		January 10, 2019
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.