



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

## Division of Workers' Compensation - Medical Fee Dispute Resolution (MS-48)

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78744-1645

(512) 804-4000 | F: (512) 804-4811 | (800) 252-7031 | TDI.texas.gov | @TexasTDI

## MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Requestor Name**

MHHS Cypress Hospital

**Respondent Name**

Ace American Insurance Co

**MFDR Tracking Number**

M4-20-0798-01

**Carrier's Austin Representative**

Box Number 15

**MFDR Date Received**

December 2, 2019

### REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

**Requestor's Position Summary:** "I called the adjuster and the supervisor multiple times to have this denial overturned but my appeal was denied."

**Amount in Dispute:** \$33,445.80

### RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

**Respondent's Position Summary:** "...the date of service at issue is outside of the one-year deadline and the Division lacks jurisdiction to consider this dispute."

**Response Submitted by:** ESIS

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
March 17, 2018	Outpatient hospital services	\$33,445.80	\$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**

- 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
- The insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
  - 197 – Precertification/authorization/notification absent

**Issue**

Did the requestor waive the right to medical fee dispute resolution?

**Findings**

28 TAC §133.307(c)(1) states a request for medical fee dispute resolution that does not involve issues of compensability, extent of injury, liability, medical necessity or a refund shall be filed no later than one year after the date(s) of service in dispute.

The date of the service in dispute is March 17, 2018. The request for medical dispute resolution was received in the Medical Dispute Resolution (MDR) section on December 2, 2019.

This date is later than one year after the date(s) of service in dispute. Review of the submitted documentation finds that the disputed services do not involve issues identified above.

DWC concludes that the requestor has failed to timely file this dispute with DWC’s MDR Section; consequently, the requestor has waived the right to medical fee dispute resolution.

**Conclusion**

In resolving disputes over reimbursement for medically necessary health care to treat a compensable injury, the role of DWC is to adjudicate payment following Texas laws and DWC rules. The findings in this decision are based on the evidence available at the time of review. Even though not all the evidence was discussed, it was considered.

For the reasons above the requestor has not established payment is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

**ORDER**

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, DWC has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the disputed services.

**Authorized Signature**

		January 16, 2020
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 28 TAC §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 DWC within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to DWC 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 other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with DWC. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 TAC §141.1(d).

**Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.**