



# 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**

MEMORIAL COMPOUNDING RX

**Respondent Name**

Starr Indemnity & Liability Company

**MFDR Tracking Number**

M4-20-1304-01

**Carrier's Austin Representative**

Box Number 19

**MFDR Date Received**

January 24, 2020

#### REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

**Requestor's Position Summary:** "Memorial Compounding Pharmacy has met the requirements to receive reimbursement."

**Amount in Dispute:** \$274.67

#### RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

**Respondent's Position Summary:** "The entitlement to medical benefits has been denied on the basis the services are not covered, i.e., extent of injury (and inferentially, that the current medical services are unrelated to the compensable injury)."

**Response Submitted by:** Flahive, Ogden & Latson

#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
June 18, 2019	Naproxen 500 mg Tablets	\$93.91	\$49.51
June 18, 2019	Cyclobenzaprine 5 mg Tablets	\$83.34	\$36.30
June 18, 2019	Gabapentin 300 mg Capsules	\$97.42	\$53.90
Total		\$274.67	\$139.71

#### 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 (DWC).

#### **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 Codes §§134.530 and 134.540 set out the closed formulary requirements.

4. The insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
  - 197 – Precertification/authorization/notification/pre-treatment absent.
  - 663 – Reimbursement has been calculated according to state fee schedule guidelines
  - P12 – Workers’ compensation jurisdictional fee schedule adjustment.
  - 16 – Claim/service lacks information or has submission/billing error(s).
  - 193 – Original payment decision is being maintained. Upon review, it was determined that this claim was processed properly.

### **Issues**

1. Did the insurance carrier raise a new defense in its response?
2. Is the insurance carrier’s denial of payment based on preauthorization supported?
3. Is the insurance carrier’s denial of payment based on submission/billing error(s) supported?
4. Is Memorial Compounding Rx (Memorial) entitled to additional reimbursement?

### **Findings**

1. In its position statement, Flahive, Ogden & Latson, on behalf of the insurance carrier, argued that “The entitlement to medical benefits has been denied on the basis the services are not covered, i.e., extent of injury (and inferentially, that the current medical services are unrelated to the compensable injury) ... See attached PLN-11.”

The response from the insurance carrier is required to address only the denial reasons presented to the requestor the request for medical fee dispute resolution (MFDR) was filed with the DWC. Any new denial reasons or defenses raised shall not be considered in this review.<sup>1</sup>

The submitted documentation does not support that a denial based on the extent of the compensable injury was provided to Memorial before this request for MFDR was filed and no PLN was included in the submitted documentation. Therefore, the DWC will not consider this argument in the current dispute review.

2. Memorial is seeking reimbursement for drugs dispensed on June 18, 2019. Starr Indemnity & Liability Company denied the drugs, in part, based on preauthorization. Preauthorization is only required for:
  - drugs identified with a status of “N” in the current edition of the ODG, Appendix A<sup>2</sup>;
  - any compound prescribed before July 1, 2018 that contains a drug identified with a status of “N” in the current edition of the ODG Appendix A;
  - any prescription drug created through compounding prescribed and dispensed on or after July 1, 2018; and
  - any investigational or experimental drug.<sup>3</sup>

Review of the ODG, Appendix A finds that the drugs in question do not have a status of “N”. No evidence was provided to indicate that the drugs in question is a compound drug.

The determination of a service’s investigational or experimental nature is determined on a case by case basis through utilization review.<sup>4</sup> Flahive, Ogden & Latson provided no argument or evidence that the insurance carrier engaged in a prospective or retrospective utilization review to establish that the specific drugs considered in this review are investigational or experimental.

The DWC finds that the insurance carrier failed to support that the drug in question required preauthorization.

3. Starr Indemnity & Liability Company also denied the drugs based on billing errors. The documentation submitted does not support the insurance carrier’s denial of payment for this reason.

---

<sup>1</sup> 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(d)(2)(F)

<sup>2</sup> *ODG Treatment in Workers’ Comp (ODG) / Appendix A, ODG Workers’ Compensation Drug Formulary*

<sup>3</sup> 28 TAC §134.530(b)(1) and §134.540(b)

<sup>4</sup> Texas Insurance Code §19.2005(b)

4. Because the insurance carrier failed to support its denial of payment for the disputed drug, Memorial is entitled to reimbursement.

The reimbursement considered in this dispute is calculated as follows<sup>5</sup>:

- Naproxen 500 mg tablets:  $(1.2135 \times 30 \times 1.25) + \$4.00 = \$49.51$
- Cyclobenzaprine HCl 5 mg tablets:  $(1.7226 \times 15 \times 1.25) + \$4.00 = \$36.30$
- Gabapentin 300 mg capsules:  $(1.3307 \times 30 \times 1.25) + \$4.00 = \$53.90$

The total allowable reimbursement is \$139.71. This amount is recommended.

**Conclusion**

For the reasons stated above, the DWC finds that the requestor has established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$139.71.

**ORDER**

Based on the submitted information, pursuant to Texas Labor Code Section 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), the DWC has determined the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the disputed services. The DWC hereby ORDERS the respondent to remit to the requestor \$139.71, plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this order.

**Authorized Signature**

	Laurie Garnes	February 21, 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 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 DWC within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the DWC 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.**

<sup>5</sup> 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.503(c)