



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

LIFE AMBULANCE SERVICE

Respondent Name

Texas Mutual Insurance Company

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-20-2117-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 54

MFDR Date Received

April 30, 2020

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "we are aware on the time filing, but we were not aware was work related until patient contacted us."

Amount in Dispute: \$909.98

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "The provider submitted an appeal; the carrier maintained the decision as documentation submitted did not support exceptions to timely filing... The rationale given by the requestor for the late bill is not consistent with the Rule above."

Response Submitted by: Texas Mutual Insurance Company

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Table with 4 columns: Date(s) of Service, Disputed Service(s), Amount in Dispute, Amount Due. Row 1: September 26, 2019, Ground Ambulance, \$909.98, \$0.00

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code (TLC) §413.031 and all-applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC).

Background

- 1. 28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 TAC §133.20 sets out the medical bill submission procedures for health care providers.
3. 28 TAC §102.4 sets out the rules for non-Commission communications.
4. TLC §408.027 sets out the rules for timely submission of claims by health care providers.
5. TLC §408.0272 provides for certain exceptions to untimely submission of a medical bill.

**Issues**

- 1. What is the timely filing deadline applicable to the medical bills for the services in dispute?
- 2. Did the requestor forfeit the right to reimbursement for the services in dispute?

**Findings**

- 1. 28 TAC §133.20(b) requires that, except as provided in TLC §408.0272, “a health care provider shall not submit a medical bill later than the 95th day after the date the services are provided.” Insufficient documentation was found to support that any of the exceptions described in TLC §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.
- 2. TLC §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 TAC §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 TLC §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 DWC 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 TLC §413.031, the DWC has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the disputed services.

**Authorized Signature**

Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	May 20, 2020 Date
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**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 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 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 DWC. **Please include a copy of the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision** along 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**