



**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**

BAYLOR SURGICARE AT MANSFIELD

**Respondent Name**

LIBERTY INSURANCE CORP

**MFDR Tracking Number**

M4-21-1190-01

**Carrier's Austin Representative**

Box Number 1

**MFDR Date Received**

MARCH 8, 2021

**REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY**

"At this time we are requesting that this claim paid in accordance with the 2020 Texas Workers Compensation Fee Schedule and Guidelines for Ambulatory Surgical Centers."

**Amount in Dispute:** \$1,495.63

**RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY**

"Denial of CPT 29879 remains as provider did not support level of service billed. Please see attached references from AAOS and CPT Assistant."

**Response Submitted by:** Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
December 2, 2020	Ambulatory Surgical Care Services (ASC) CPT Code 29879	\$1,495.63	\$1,495.63

**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**

- 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, effective May 31, 2012, sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
- 28 TAC §134.402, effective August 31, 2008, sets out the reimbursement guidelines for ambulatory surgical care services.
- The insurance carrier reduced/denied payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
  - 943-Documentation does not support billed charge. No recommendation of payment can be made.

- 193-Original payment decision is being maintained. Upon review, it was determined that this claim was processed properly.
- W3-Additional payment made on appeal/reconsideration.

### Issues

Is the requestor entitled to additional reimbursement for ASC services related to CPT code 29879 rendered on December 2, 2020?

### Findings

1. The requestor is seeking medical fee dispute resolution in the amount of \$1,495.63 for ASC services related to CPT code 29879 rendered on December 2, 2020.
2. The respondent contends that payment of \$0.00 is due because the documentation does not support billed charges.
3. The fee guidelines for disputed services is found in 28 TAC §134.402.

28 TAC §134.402(b) (6) states,

Definitions for words and terms, when used in this section, shall have the following meanings, unless clearly indicated otherwise. "Medicare payment policy" means reimbursement methodologies, models, and values or weights including its coding, billing, and reporting payment policies as set forth in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) payment policies specific to Medicare.

28 TAC §134.402(d) states,

For coding, billing, and reporting, of facility services covered in this rule, Texas workers' compensation system participants shall apply the Medicare payment policies in effect on the date a service is provided with any additions or exceptions specified in this section, including the following paragraphs.

The disputed service is described as:

- 29879- Arthroscopy, knee, surgical; abrasion arthroplasty (includes chondroplasty where necessary) or multiple drilling or microfracture.

The DWC finds the documentation supports extensive tissue debridement and shaving in different areas of the knee to support billed service; therefore, the respondent's denial is not supported.

4. Per ADDENDUM AA, CPT code 29879 is a non-device intensive procedure.

28 TAC §134.402(f)(1)(A) states,

The reimbursement calculation used for establishing the MAR shall be the Medicare ASC reimbursement amount determined by applying the most recently adopted and effective Medicare Payment System Policies for Services Furnished in Ambulatory Surgical Centers and Outpatient Prospective Payment System reimbursement formula and factors as published annually in the Federal Register. Reimbursement shall be based on the fully implemented payment amount as in ADDENDUM AA, ASC COVERED SURGICAL PROCEDURES FOR CY 2008, published in the November 27, 2007 publication of the Federal Register, or its successor. The following minimal modifications apply: (1) Reimbursement for non-device intensive procedures shall be: A) The Medicare ASC facility reimbursement amount multiplied by 235 percent.

The following formula was used to calculate the MAR:

The Medicare ASC reimbursement for code 29879 CY 2020 is \$1,286.26.

The Medicare ASC reimbursement is divided by 2 = \$643.13.

This number multiplied by the City Wage Index for Mansfield, Texas of 0.9792= \$629.75.

Add these two together = \$1,272.88.

To determine the MAR, multiply the geographically adjusted Medicare ASC reimbursement by the DWC payment adjustment factor of 235% = \$2,991.27. This code is subject to multiple procedure rule discounting of 50% = \$1,495.63.

The DWC finds the MAR for CPT code 29879 is \$1,495.63. The respondent paid \$0.00. The DWC finds the requestor is due reimbursement of \$1,495.63.

### **Conclusion**

For the reasons stated above, the DWC finds that the requestor has established that reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$1,495.63.

### ***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 \$1,495.63, plus applicable accrued interest per 28 TAC §134.130 due within 30 days of receipt of this order.

### **Authorized Signature**

_____	_____	03/26/2021
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 TAC §141.1(d).

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