

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision

General Information

Requestor Name

Ahmed Khalifa, M.D.

Respondent Name

Sunz Insurance Company

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-21-1990-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 20

DWC Date Received

July 12, 2021

Summary of Findings

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
August 14, 2020	Designated Doctor Examination (99456-W5-WP)	\$450.00	\$150.00

Requestor's Position

"THE DD RATED THE FOLLOWING AREAS FOR THIS EVALUATION. PLEASE ALSO ATTACHED DWC 32 REGARDING THE AREAS. THE MULTIPLE RIB FRACTURES IS CONSIDERED IT'S OWN BODY AREA AS WELL AS THE STERNUM."

Amount in Dispute: \$450.00

Respondent's Position

The Austin carrier representative for Sunz Insurance Company is Stephen J. Backhaus. The representative was notified of this medical fee dispute on July 20, 2021.

Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(d)(1), if the DWC does not receive the response within 14 calendar days of the dispute notification, then the DWC may base its decision on the available information.

As of today, no response has been received from the insurance carrier or its representative. We will base this decision on the information available.

Findings and Decision

Authority

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

Statutes and Rules

1. 28 TAC §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 TAC §134.250 sets out the fee guidelines for examinations to determine maximum medical improvement and impairment rating.

Denial Reasons

The insurance carrier [reduced or denied] the payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:

- P12 – Workers' compensation jurisdictional fee schedule adjustment.
- 18 – Exact duplicate claim/service

Issues

1. Is Ahmed Khalifa, M.D. entitled to additional reimbursement?

Findings

1. Dr. Khalifa is seeking additional reimbursement for an examination to determine maximum medical improvement and impairment rating.

The submitted documentation supports that Dr. Khalifa performed an evaluation of maximum medical improvement as ordered by the DWC. 28 TAC §134.250 (3)(C) states that the maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) for this examination is \$350.00.

Review of the submitted documentation finds that Dr. Khalifa performed impairment rating evaluations of the left shoulder with range of motion testing, spine, traumatic brain injury, sternum, lung, and right ribs.

The rule at 28 TAC §134.250 (4)(C) defines the fees for the calculation of an impairment rating. The MAR for the evaluation of the first musculoskeletal body area performed with range of motion is \$300.00. The MAR for the evaluation of subsequent musculoskeletal body areas is \$150.00 each. The MAR for the assignment of impairment rating for non-musculoskeletal body areas is \$150.00 each.

Examination	AMA Chapter	§134.250 Category	Reimbursement Amount
Maximum Medical Improvement			\$350.00
IR: Left Shoulder (ROM)	Musculoskeletal System	Upper Extremities	\$300.00
IR: Spine (DRE)		Spine and Pelvis	\$150.00
IR: Traumatic Brain Injury	Nervous System	Body Systems	\$150.00
IR: Sternum	Respiratory System	Body Systems	\$150.00
IR: Lung			
IR: Right Ribs			
Total MMI			\$350.00
Total IR			\$750.00
Total Exam			\$1,100.00

The total allowable reimbursement for the examination in question is \$1,100.00. The insurance carrier paid \$950.00. An additional reimbursement of \$150.00 is recommended.

Conclusion

The outcome of this medical fee dispute is based on the evidence presented by the requestor and the respondent at the time of adjudication. Though all evidence may not have been discussed, it was considered.

DWC finds the requester has established that additional reimbursement of \$150.00 is due.

Order

Under Texas Labor Code §§413.031 and 413.019, DWC has determined the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the disputed services. It is ordered that Sunz Insurance Company must remit to Ahmed Khalifa, M.D. \$150.00 plus applicable accrued interest within 30 days of receiving this order in accordance with 28 TAC §134.130.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

September 28, 2021

Date

Your Right to Appeal

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision under 28 TAC §133.307, which applies to disputes filed on or after **June 1, 2012**.

A party seeking review must submit DWC Form-045M, *Request to Schedule, Reschedule, or Cancel a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision (BRC-MFD)* and follow the instructions on the form. You can find the form at www.tdi.texas.gov/forms/form20numeric.html. DWC must receive the request within **20 days** of when you receive this decision. You may fax, mail, or personally deliver your request to DWC using the contact information on the form or the field office handling the claim. If you have questions about DWC Form-045M, please call

CompConnection at 1-800-252-7031, option 3 or email CompConnection@tdi.texas.gov.

The party seeking review of the MFDR decision must 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*** with any other required information listed in 28 TAC §141.1(d).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 1-800-252-7031, opción 3 o correo electrónico CompConnection@tdi.texas.gov.