



## Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision General Information

**Requester Name**

IKECHUKWU JOHN OBIH MD

**Respondent Name**

TASB RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

**MFDR Tracking Number**

M4-22-0233-01

**Carrier's Austin Representative**

Box Number 47

**MFDR Date Received**

October 5, 2021

### Summary of Findings

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
July 27, 2021	99214-95	\$54.97	\$54.97
<b>Total</b>		\$54.97	\$54.97

### Requester's Position

"WORK COMP TREATMENT/SERVICES INCORRECT REDUCTION."

**Amount in Dispute:** \$54.97

### Respondent's Position

"The previous review is being maintained (Payment of \$180.53) and no additional allowance is recommended as per Subchapter A. Covid-19 Emergency Rules 28 TAC 167.1 - The extension for 60 days from 8/10/2020 thus 10/8/2020 rule expired. The reimbursement is applied in accordance with the DWC guidelines."

**Response Submitted by:** TASB RISK FUND

## 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 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 TAC §134.203 sets out the reimbursement guidelines for professional medical services.
3. 28 TAC §133.30 sets out the Telemedicine and Telehealth Services.

### Denial Reasons

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

- 350 – Bill has been identified as a request for reconsideration.
- 95 – Plan procedure not followed.
- U00 – There was no UR procedure/treatment request received.
- Note – No additional allowance is recommended as per Subchapter A Covid-19 emergency rule 28 TAC 167.1. The extension for 60 days from 8/10/2020 thus 10/8/2020 rule expired. The reimbursement is applied in accordance with the DWC guidelines.

### Issues

Is the insurance carrier's reduction of payment supported?

### Findings

The requestor seeks additional reimbursement of \$54.97 for CPT code 99214-95 rendered on July 27, 2021. The insurance carrier reduced the payment amount with reduction codes 95 and U00 (description provided above.)

The carrier states, "The previous review is being maintained (Payment of \$180.53) and no additional allowance is recommended as per Subchapter A. Covid-19 Emergency Rules 28 TAC 167.1 - The extension for 60-day from 8/10/2020 thus 10/8/2020 rule expired. The reimbursement is applied in accordance with the DWC guidelines."

28 TAC §167.1 was adopted on April 13, 2020, the rule allows physical and occupational therapists and speech pathologists to bill and be reimbursed for telemedicine services. The DWC's emergency rule, 28 TAC §167.1, expired in October 2020, however, physical, and occupational therapists and speech pathologists can still bill and be reimbursed for telemedicine services until the federal public health emergency expires.

The services in dispute were rendered after the expiration of 28 TAC §167.1, however, 28 TAC §133.30 applies to the services in dispute.

Per 28 TAC §133.30 a health care provider may bill and be reimbursed for telemedicine and telehealth services regardless of the geographical area or location of the injured employee. Telehealth and telemedicine services are billed as professional services. Reimbursement for professional services is established by the Medical Fee Guideline for Professional Services, 28 TAC §134.203.

28 TAC §134.203(b)(1) states in part "For coding, billing, reporting, and reimbursement of professional medical services, Texas workers' compensation system participants shall apply the following: (1) Medicare payment policies, including its coding; billing; correct coding initiatives (CCI) edits; modifiers; bonus payments for health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) and physician scarcity areas (PSAs); and other payment policies in effect on the date a service is provided with any additions or exceptions in the rules."

The CMS Interim Final Rule 19230-01, effective March 31, 2020, finds that Medicare changed the reimbursement rates for telemedicine services to health care providers from the facility rate to the non-facility rate.

28 TAC §134.203 (a)(7) states that specific Texas Labor Code provisions and division rules take precedence over conflicting CMS provisions administering Medicare. The division finds no provisions in the Labor Code or its adopted rules that conflict with the CMS Interim Final Rule 19230. As there are no conflicts, the maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) for telemedicine services provided in the workers' compensation services follow Medicare payment policies. As Medicare reimburses telemedicine services under the non-facility rate per Interim Final Rule 19230, the division finds that the MAR for telemedicine services is calculated using the non-facility rate.

DWC now considers whether the disputed service is covered telemedicine or telehealth services. Review of the Medicare Covered Telehealth services at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes>, found that the disputed services are CPT Codes listed in the covered telehealth code list. The disputed code is therefore subject to reimbursement pursuant to 28 TAC §134.203.

28 TAC §134.203 (c)(1)(2) states in pertinent part, "To determine the Maximum Allowable Reimbursement (MAR) for professional services, system participants shall apply the Medicare payment policies with minimal modifications. (1) For service categories of Evaluation & Management, General Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Radiology, Pathology, Anesthesia, and Surgery when performed in an office setting, the established conversion factor to be applied is \$52.83. For Surgery when performed in a facility setting, the established conversion factor to be applied is \$66.32. (2) The conversion factors listed in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be the conversion factors for calendar year 2008. Subsequent year's conversion factors shall be determined by applying the annual percentage adjustment of the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) to the previous year's conversion factors and shall be effective January 1st of the new calendar year. ..."

Reimbursement is calculated as follows:

DOS	CPT CODE	# UNITS	AMOUNT PAID	MAR	MAR - Amount Paid = Amount Due	DISPUTED AMOUNT	AMOUNT DUE
7/27/21	99214-95	1	\$180.53	\$235.91	\$235.91 - \$180.53 = \$55.38	\$54.97	\$54.97
TOTAL			\$180.53	\$235.91	\$55.38	\$54.97	\$54.97

Per 28 TAC §134.203 (h)(1-2), "...When there is no negotiated or contracted amount that complies with Labor Code §413.011, reimbursement shall be the least of the: (1) MAR amount; (2) health care provider's usual and customary charge, unless directed by Division rule to bill a specific amount; (3) fair and reasonable amount consistent with the standards of §134.1 of this title." The DWC finds that the requestor is entitled to a total recommended amount of \$54.97.

### 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 \$54.97 is due.

## **Order**

Under Texas Labor Code §§413.031 and 413.019, DWC has determined the requester is entitled to additional reimbursement for the disputed services. It is ordered that the Respondent must remit to Requester \$54.97 plus applicable accrued interest within 30 days of receiving this order in accordance with 28 TAC §134.130.

### **Authorized Signature**

_____	_____	November 2, 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 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](http://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](mailto: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 512-804-4812.