



Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision

General Information

Requestor Name
TEXAS MEDCLINIC

Respondent Name
AIU INSURANCE COMPANY

MFDR Tracking Number
M4-22-1241-01

Carrier's Austin Representative
Box Number 19

DWC Date Received
February 24, 2022

Summary of Findings

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
November 23, 2021	99441	\$28.75	\$28.75
Total		\$28.75	\$28.75

Requestor's Position

"A reconsideration was submitted on 01/11/2022 requesting to reprocess CPT code 99441 under the correct Texas Department of Insurance Division of Workers' Compensation Fee Guidelines MAR amount \$92."

Amount in Dispute: \$28.75

Respondent's Position

The Austin carrier representative for AIU Insurance Company is Flahive Ogden & Latson. Flahive Ogden & Latson was notified of this medical fee dispute on March 1, 2022. 28 TAC §133.307(d)(1) states that if the division does not receive the response within 14 calendar days of the dispute notification, then the division may base its decision on the available information. As of today, no response has been received from the carrier or its representative. We therefore base this decision on the information available as authorized under 28 TAC §133.307(d)(1).

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 §134.203 sets out the fee guideline 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:

- P12 – Workers' Compensation jurisdictional fee schedule adjustment.

Issues

1. Is the Insurance Carrier's reduction of payment supported?
2. Is the Requestor entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. The requestors seeks additional reimbursement for a telemedicine service billed under CPT Code 99441 rendered on November 23, 2021. The insurance carrier issued a payment in the amount of \$63.25 and reduced the remaining charge with denial reduction code indicated above.

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."

Review of the CMS Interim Final Rule 19230, 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.

The DWC now considers whether CPT Code 99441 is a 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 service is listed in the covered telehealth code list. The disputed code is therefore subject to reimbursement pursuant to 28 TAC §134.203.

2. 28 TAC §134.203 states in pertinent part, "(c) To determine the 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..."

To determine the MAR the following formula is used: (DWC Conversion Factor/Medicare Conversion Factor) X Medicare Payment = Maximum Allowable Reimbursement (MAR).

- The date of service in dispute is November 23, 2021
- The 2021 DWC Conversion Factor is 61.17
- The 2021 Medicare Conversion Factor is 34.8931
- Per the medical bills, the services were rendered in zip code 78748; therefore, the Medicare locality is "Austin Texas."
- The Medicare Participating amount for CPT code(s) 99441 at this locality is \$57.88.
- Using the above formula, the DWC finds the MAR is \$101.47.
- The respondent paid \$63.25.
- The MAR amount \$101.47 - \$63.25, the amount paid by the insurance carrier equals \$38.22.
- The requestor seeks additional reimbursement in the amount of \$28.75. Therefore, this amount is recommended.

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 \$28.75.

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.

The DWC finds the requester has established that reimbursement of \$28.75 is due.

Order

Under Texas Labor Code §§413.031 and 413.019, DWC has determined the requestor is entitled to reimbursement for the disputed services. It is ordered that the Respondent must remit to the Requestor \$28.75 plus applicable accrued interest within 30 days of receiving this order in accordance with 28 TAC §134.130.

Authorized Signature

_____	_____	<u>June 3, 2022</u>
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. 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.