



Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision

General Information

Requestor Name

Stephanie Janiak, D.C.

Respondent Name

Arch Insurance Co.

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-22-2591-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

DWC Date Received

August 11, 2022

Summary of Findings

| Dates of Service | Disputed Services | Amount in Dispute | Amount Due |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|------------|
| September 14, 2021 | Designated Doctor Examination 99456-W5-WP | \$650.00 | \$650.00 |

Requestor's Position

I am attaching all of the paperwork required to illustrate that this claim was submitted in a timely manner as well as the documents required to process this payment properly.

Amount in Dispute: \$650.00

Respondent's Position

The Austin carrier representative for Arch Insurance Co. is Flahive, Ogden & Latson. The representative was notified of this medical fee dispute on August 16, 2022.

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 Texas Administrative Code §133.210 sets out the procedures regarding medical documentation.
2. 28 TAC §133.240 sets out the procedures for payment or denial of medical bills.
3. 28 TAC §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
4. 28 TAC §134.250 sets out the fee guidelines for examinations to determine maximum medical improvement and impairment rating.

Denial Reasons

Neither party submitted an explanation of benefits with reasons for the denial of payment for the disputed services.

Issues

1. Did Arch Insurance Co. take final action on the bill for the disputed service before medical fee dispute resolution was requested?
2. Is Stephanie Janiak, D.C. entitled to additional reimbursement?

Findings

1. Dr. Janiak is seeking reimbursement for a designated doctor examination to determine maximum medical improvement and impairment rating.

The greater weight of evidence presented to DWC supports that a complete bill for the services in question was received by the insurance carrier or its agent via fax on September 23, 2021.

In an email dated December 30, 2021, the adjuster confirmed receipt of the bill and documentation, stating, "I've forwarded the invoices for payment with a request to override timely filing so they do not try to deny it for that reason."

Per 28 TAC §133.240(a), the insurance carrier is required to take final action by paying, reducing, or denying the service in question not later than 45 days after receiving the medical bill. This deadline is not extended by a request for additional information.

No evidence was provided to support that the insurance carrier took final action on the bill

for the service in question.

2. Because the insurance carrier failed to raise any defense for non-payment of the services in question, Dr. Janiak is entitled to reimbursement.

The submitted documentation supports that Dr. Janiak performed an evaluation of maximum medical improvement as ordered by 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. Janiak performed impairment rating evaluations of the right ring finger with range of motion testing. The rule at 28 TAC §134.250 (4)(C) defines the fees for the calculation of an impairment rating for musculoskeletal body areas. The MAR for the evaluation of the first musculoskeletal body area performed with range of motion is \$300.00.

The total allowable reimbursement is \$650.00. This amount 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 \$650.00 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 Arch Insurance Co. must remit to Stephanie Janiak, D.C. \$650.00 plus applicable accrued interest within 30 days of receiving this order in accordance with 28 TAC §134.130.

Authorized Signature

| | | |
|-----------|--|------------------|
| _____ | _____ | October 27, 2022 |
| 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 electronico CompConnection@tdi.texas.gov.