

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision

General Information

Requestor Name

Donald G. Eaves, D.C.

Respondent Name

Granite State Insurance Co.

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-23-0049-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

DWC Date Received

September 5, 2022

Summary of Findings

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
April 29, 2022	Designated Doctor Examination 99456-W5-NM	\$350.00	\$350.00

Requestor's Position

I performed a Designated Doctor Evaluation on 04/29/2022 as directed by the TDI DWC in the order dated 03/09/2022 at the request of the injured employee representative for the purpose of maximum medical improvement and impairment rating. The report and billing were timely delivered to the insurance carrier billing department/adjuster listed on the DWC 32 form via fax on 05/10/2022.

Amount in Dispute: \$350.00

Respondent's Position

The Austin carrier representative for Granite State Insurance Co. is Flahive, Ogden & Latson. The representative was notified of this medical fee dispute on September 13, 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 §133.240 sets out the procedures for payment or denial of a medical bill.
2. 28 TAC §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
3. 28 TAC §134.250 sets out the fee guidelines for examinations to determine maximum medical improvement.

Denial Reasons

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

Issues

1. Did Granite State Insurance Co. take final action on the bill for the disputed service before medical fee dispute resolution was requested?
2. Is Donald G. Eaves, D.C. entitled to additional reimbursement?

Findings

1. Dr. Eaves is seeking reimbursement for a designated doctor examination to determine maximum medical improvement.

Dr. Eaves argued that he had not received payment or an explanation of benefits for medical bills submitted for the examination in question.

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.

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. No evidence was provided to support that the insurance carrier took final action on the bill for the service in question.

2. Because Granite State Insurance Co. failed to provide any defense of non-payment for the examination in question, Dr. Eaves is entitled to reimbursement.

The submitted documentation supports that Dr. Eaves performed an evaluation of maximum medical improvement as ordered by DWC. 28 TAC §134.250 (3)(C) states that the maximum allowable reimbursement for this examination is \$350.00. 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 \$350.00 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 Granite State Insurance Co. must remit to Donald G. Eaves, D.C. \$350.00 plus applicable accrued interest within 30 days of receiving this order in accordance with 28 TAC §134.130.

Authorized Signature

_____	_____	December 15, 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 electrónico CompConnection@tdi.texas.gov.