



Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision General Information

Requestor Name

Sabrena Simmons

Respondent Name

Liberty Mutual Insurance

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-23-1592-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 1

DWC Date Received

March 8, 2023

Summary of Findings

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
06/21/2022	97750-FC GP	\$247.77	\$0.00

Requestor's Position

"The carrier has not paid this claim in accordance and compliance with TDI-DWC Rule 133 and 134. The carrier has not responded or has denied this claim in its entirety following our filing of Request for Reconsideration. Therefore, we are filing for Medical Dispute Resolution at this time per Rule 133.307.... The claim was billed per Medical Fee Guideline conversion factors as established in Rule 134.203 (c) (2). The DWC Division Ratio/conversion factors for the date of service billed are utilized for this claim. We have calculated the appropriate MAR by utilizing the CMS Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as per the above and as per the attached formula and print outs from the CMS website."

Amount in Dispute: \$247.77

Respondent's Position

"We base our payments on the Texas Fee Guidelines and the Texas Department of Insurance Division of Workers' Compensation Acts and Rules. This is not a network claim as bill. We have again reviewed payment for the services of June 21, 2022, and determined that reimbursement was issued according to the guidelines provided by the Texas Medical Fee Schedule. The provider billed 97750 with 16 units. The first unit for 97750 was paid at \$63.55 and each additional unit was reimbursed with the multiple payment reduction applied in the amount of \$46.84 per unit. Total payment issued \$766.15 is appropriate. No additional payment is due."

Response Submitted by: Liberty Mutual Insurance

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 fee guideline for professional medical services.
3. 28 TAC §134.225 sets the reimbursement guidelines for FCEs.

Denial Reasons

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

- 163 – The charge for this procedure exceeds the unit value and/or the multiple procedure rules.
- 876 – Fee schedule amount is equal to the charge.
- 193 – Original payment decision is being maintained.

Issues

1. Is the Insurance Carrier's reimbursement reduction reason(s) supported?
2. Is the Requestor entitled to additional reimbursement for CPT code 97750-FC?

Findings

1. The insurance carrier reduced the disputed service, 97750-FC, with reduction code 163 (description indicated above).

CPT Code 97750-FC is defined as a functional capacity evaluation.

On the disputed date of service, the requestor billed CPT code 97550-FC X 16 units.

The multiple procedure rule discounting applies to the disputed service.

Medicare Claims Processing Manual Chapter 5, 10.7-effective June 6, 2016, titled Multiple Procedure Payment Reductions for Outpatient Rehabilitation Services, states in pertinent part:

Full payment is made for the unit or procedure with the highest PE payment....

For subsequent units and procedures with dates of service on or after April 1, 2013, furnished to the same patient on the same day, full payment is made for work and malpractice and 50 percent payment is made for the PE for services submitted on either professional or institutional claims.

To determine which services will receive the MPPR, contractors shall rank services according to the applicable PE relative value units (RVU) and price the service with the highest PE RVU at 100% and apply the appropriate MPPR to the remaining services. When the highest PE RVU applies to more than one of the identified services, contractors shall additionally sort and rank these services according to highest total fee schedule

amount, and price the service with the highest total fee schedule amount at 100% and apply the appropriate MPPR to the remaining services.

The division finds that the Insurance Carrier's reimbursement reduction reason is supported.

2. The requester is seeking additional reimbursement of \$247.77 for 16 units of CPT code 97750-FC rendered on June 21, 2022.

28 TAC §134.203(b)(1) states, "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 applicable fee guideline for FCEs is found at 28 TAC §134.225, which states, "The following applies to functional capacity evaluations (FCEs). A maximum of three FCEs for each compensable injury shall be billed and reimbursed. FCEs ordered by the division shall not count toward the three FCEs allowed for each compensable injury. FCEs shall be billed using CPT code 97750 with modifier "FC." FCEs shall be reimbursed in accordance with §134.203(c) of this title. Reimbursement shall be for up to a maximum of four hours for the initial test or for a division ordered test; a maximum of two hours for an interim test; and a maximum of three hours for the discharge test unless it is the initial test. Documentation is required. "

28 TAC §134.203 states in pertinent part, "(c) 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..."

On the disputed date of service, the requestor billed CPT code 97550-FC X 16 units.

As described in Finding #1 above, the multiple procedure discounting rule applies to the disputed service.

The MPPR Rate File that contains the payments for 2022 services is found at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/TherapyServices/index.html>.

To determine the MAR the following formula is used:

$(\text{DWC Conversion Factor} / \text{Medicare Conversion Factor}) \times \text{Medicare Payment} = (\text{MAR})$.

- MPPR rates are published by carrier and locality.
- Disputed service was rendered in zip code 77042, locality 18, Houston, TX.
- The disputed date of service is June 21, 2022.

- The Medicare participating amount for CPT code 97750 in 2022 at this locality is \$35.21 for the first unit, and \$25.95 for subsequent units.
- The 2022 DWC Conversion Factor is 62.46
- The 2022 Medicare Conversion Factor is 34.6062
- Using the above formula, the DWC finds the MAR is \$766.10.
- The respondent paid \$766.15.
- No additional reimbursement is recommended.

The division finds that the requestor has not established that additional reimbursement is due.

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 division finds the requester has not established that additional reimbursement is due.

Order

Under Texas Labor Code §§413.031 and 413.019, DWC has determined the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 additional reimbursement for the disputed service.

Authorized Signature

Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	March 30, 2023 Date
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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.