



Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision General Information

Requestor Name

Sabrena C. Simmons, D.C.

Respondent Name

Safety National Casualty Corp

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-23-1687-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

DWC Date Received

March 15, 2023

Summary of Findings

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
10/31/2022	97750	\$214.71	\$0.00

Requestor's Position

"... FCE's are billed in 15 minute increments and displayed as such on the units column of the HCFA. Each unit is billed accordingly based on Medical Fee Guideline conversion factors as established by DWC rule. The claim was billed per Medical Fee Guideline conversion factors as established in Rule 134.203 (c) (2)... "

Amount in Dispute: \$214.71

Respondent's Position

"We are attaching a copy of the provider's initial medical bill, the carrier's response to it dated November 8, 2022, the provider's so-called request for reconsideration and the carrier's EOR in response to it dated November 28, 2022. The provider was required in its request for reconsideration to actually provide information to the carrier that would support a change in the carrier's position. Specifically, Rule 133.250(d)(4) requires that the request for reconsideration include a bill specific substantive explanation that provides a rational basis to modify the previous payment. Yet, the provider's so-called request for reconsideration failed to provide the substantive explanation to support any change in the carrier's position. In support of the carrier's position, we are providing the calculation for the total payment of \$672.47. The provider is not entitled to any additional payments."

Response Submitted by: Safety National Casualty Corporation

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.
- 119 - Benefit maximum for this time period or occurrence has been reached.
- 193 – Original payment decision is being maintained.
- 1014 - The attached billing has been re-evaluated at the request of the provider. Based on this re-evaluation, we find our original review to be correct. Therefore, no additional allowance appears to be warranted.
- 2005 - No additional reimbursement allowed after review of Appeal/Reconsideration.
- W3 – Bill is a reconsideration or appeal.

Issues

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

Findings

1. The insurance carrier reduced the disputed service, CPT code 97750, 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 X 14 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 \$214.71 for 14 units of CPT code 97750 rendered on October 31, 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 X 14 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.
- The disputed date of service is October 31, 2022.
- The disputed service was rendered in zip code 77042, locality 18.
- The Medicare participating amount for CPT code 97750 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 \$672.43
- The respondent paid \$672.47
- No additional reimbursement is recommended.

The division finds that no 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 requestor 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 reimbursement for the disputed service.

Authorized Signature

_____	_____	April 14, 2023
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.