**Texas Department of Insurance**
**Division of Workers' Compensation**
Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645
512-804-4812 telephone • 512-804-4811 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov

# MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Requestor Name and Address**

HEALTHSOUTH R.I.O.S.A.
PO BOX 143
WYNCOTE, PA 190950143

**Respondent Name**
SENTRY SELECT INSURANCE COMPAN

**Carrier's Austin Representative Box**
Box Number 19

**MFDR Tracking Number**
M4-98-3199-01

**MFDR Date Received**
7/29/1997

## REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

**Requestor's Documentation:** None found/provided

## RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

**Respondent's Position Summary:**

"Bills were properly paid pursuant to the per diem rates and other provisions of the 1992 Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline (Guideline)."

**Response Submitted by:**

Flahive, Ogden & Latson

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

| Dates of Service | Disputed Services | Amount In Dispute | Amount Due |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7/22/1996 - 8/30/1996 | Inpatient Hospital Services | $11765.72 | $0.00 |

## Background

1. Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305, effective June 3, 1991, 16 *Texas Register* 2830, sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §102.5, adopted to be effective July 29, 1991, 16 *Texas Register* 3939; amended to be effective March 15, 1995, 20 *Texas Register* 1418, sets out the guidelines for written communications from the Division, formerly the Commission.
3. Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, effective December 31, 2006, section (f) sets out the procedures for parties seeking review of a medical fee dispute decision or dismissal.
4. The former agency's *Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline* at 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.400, 17 *TexReg* 4949, was declared invalid in the case of *Texas Hospital Association v. Texas Workers' Compensation Commission*, 911 *South Western Reporter Second* 884 (Texas Appeals – Austin, 1995, writ of error denied January 10, 1997). As no specific fee guideline existed for acute care inpatient hospital services during the time period that the disputed services were rendered, the 1991 version of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1(f) applies as the proper Division rule to address fee payment issues in this dispute, as confirmed by the Court's opinion in *All Saints Health System v. Texas Workers' Compensation Commission*, 125 *South Western Reporter Third* 96 (Texas Appeals – Austin, 2003, petition for review denied).

## Finding

Existing records indicate that the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution (formerly medical review) program docketed a request for medical fee dispute resolution as described in the *General Information* section above. On May 29, 2012, the parties in dispute were notified that the division was unable to locate the physical documentation associated with the aforementioned dispute. This notice was made in the form of a letter which was sent to:

(1) the requestor via regular mail to the address listed above;
(2) the Texas Hospital Association, Attention Charles Bailey, via USPS certified mail tracking number 9171082133393821899551, to 1108 Lavaca Ste 700, Austin, Tx 78701-2172; and
(3) the respondent via its Austin representative box as listed above.

The division, as required by 28 TAC §102.5 (e) effective for the dates of service in dispute, relied upon information supplied by the requestor or health care provider, and all its known representatives for delivery of the letter. Similarly, the division relied upon the information supplied by the respondent for delivery of the letter to its appropriate Austin carrier representative as required in 28 TAC §102.5 (b). Charles Bailey, General Counsel of the Texas Hospital Association was notified pursuant to his March 15, 2006 deposition in *HCA Healthcare Corp. v. Tex. Dep't. of Ins.*, 303 S.W.3d 345 (Tex. App. - Austin, 2009, no pet) in which Mr. Bailey specified that the Texas Hospital Association would cooperate with the division in seeing that dispute decisions over former, invalidated, 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.400, 17 *TexReg* 4949 titled *Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline* would be sent to the proper and correct addresses of the claimant hospitals.

The letter to the parties included a request for copies of: (1) the original request for dispute resolution; (2) additional information; (3) copies of correspondence; and (4) any additional documentation or information the parties saw fit to provide. Additionally, the party proving documentation was instructed forward a copy to all other parties at the time it was provided to the division. To date, the respondent has submitted some responsive documents; however, the division has no record of receiving any responsive documentation from the requestor, nor from any representatives of the requestor.

28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305, effective June 3, 1991, states, in pertinent part, "(k) The division of medical review shall proceed with the review of the medical dispute after all required and requested information has been received." No documentation was provided by the requestor upon the division's request; consequently, the division finds that the requestor has failed to support its request for additional reimbursement.

## Conclusion

The division concludes that the requestor has not supported its request for additional reimbursement. For that reason, no additional reimbursement can be recommended.

## *ORDER*

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to $0.00 reimbursement for the disputed services.

**Authorized Signature**

| Signature | Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer | August 28, 2012<br>Date |
|---|---|---|

## *YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL*

A completed **Request for a Medical Contested Case Hearing** (form **DWC045A**) must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party.**

**Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.**