Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation
7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1609

MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Requestor: (x) Health Care Provider ( ) Injured Employee ( ) Insurance Carrier

Requestor's Name and Address: El Paso Specialty Hospital 1755 Curie Dr., Ste. A El Paso, TX 79902	MDR Tracking No.: M5-04-0224-01 Claim No.: Injured Employee's Name:
Respondent's Name and Address: Liberty Mutual Ins. Co./Rep Box #: 28	Date of Injury: Employer's Name: Insurance Carrier's No.:

PART II: REQUESTOR'S PRINCIPLE DOCUMENTATION AND POSITION SUMMARY

Position summary as stated on the Table of Disputed Services states, "F&R to cover hospital cost".

Principle Documentation:

1. Table of Disputed Services
2. UB-92
3. Explanation of Benefits
4. Operative Report

PART III: RESPONDENT'S PRINCIPLE DOCUMENTATION AND POSITION SUMMARY

Position summary of September 30, 2003 states "…Liberty Mutual has adopted the basic ASC methodology utilized by CMS for Medicare reimbursement of services delivered in ASCs. This methodology was selected after much research… Liberty Mutual believes that the reimbursement made to the provider is considered to be "fair and reasonable"…".

Principle Documentation:

1. Liberty Mutual letter of September 30, 2003

Date(s) of Service	CPT Code(s) or Description	Part V Reference	Additional Amount Due (if any)
4-29-03	Ambulatory Surgical Center Care	1	$00.00

PART V: MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION REVIEW SUMMARY, METHODOLOGY, AND/OR EXPLANATION

1. This dispute relates to services provided in an Ambulatory Surgical Center that are not covered under a fee guideline for this date of service. Accordingly, the reimbursement determined through this dispute resolution process must reflect a fair and reasonable rate as directed by Commission Rule 134.1. This case involves a factual dispute about what is a fair and reasonable reimbursement for the services provided.

After reviewing the documentation provided by both parties, it appears that neither the requestor nor the respondent provided convincing documentation that sufficiently discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that their purported amount is a fair and reasonable reimbursement (Rule 133.307). The failure to provide persuasive information that supports their proposed amounts makes rendering a decision difficult. After reviewing the services, the charges, and both parties' positions, it is determined that no other payment is due.

During the rule development process for facility guidelines, the Commission had contracted with Ingenix, a professional firm specializing in actuarial and health care information services, in order to secure data and information on reimbursement ranges for these types of services. The results of this analysis resulted in a recommended range for reimbursement for workers' compensation services provided in these facilities. In addition, we received information from both ASCs and insurance carriers in the recent rule revision process. While not controlling, we considered this information in order to find data related to commercial market payments for these services. This information provides a very good benchmark for determining the "fair and reasonable" reimbursement amount for the services in dispute.

To determine the amount due for this particular dispute, staff compared the procedures in this case to the amounts that would be within the reimbursement range recommended by the Ingenix study (from 192.6% to 256.3% of Medicare for this particular year). Staff considered the other information submitted by the parties and the issues related to the specific procedures performed in this dispute. Based on this review, the original reimbursement on these services is within the low end of the Ingenix range. The decision for no additional reimbursement was then presented to a staff team with health care provider billing and insurance adjusting experience. This team considered the decision and discussed the facts of the individual case.

The Requestor's Table of Disputed Services listed CPT codes 29873 and 29877 because Respondent denied the medical necessity for these codes on the explanation of benefits. The Requestor failed to pay and Independent Review Organization (IRO) fee according to commission rule 133.308. These codes were dismissed and no further action will be taken in this dispute.

The Requestor's Table of Disputed Services listed CPT code 29875 in dispute. The explanation of benefits indicated that the Respondent reimbursed according to "PPO ALLOW". This was not provided for review and additional reimbursement is not recommended.

Based on the facts of this situation, the parties' positions, the Ingenix range for applicable procedures, and the consensus of other experienced staff members in Medical Review, we find that no additional reimbursement is due for these services.

PART VI: GENERAL PAYMENT POLICIES/REFERENCES IMPACTING DECISION

28 Texas Administrative Code Sec. 134.1 and 133.307.

PART VII: DIVISION DECISION AND ORDER

Based upon the review of the disputed healthcare services, the Medical Review Division has determined that the requestor is **not** entitled to additional reimbursement.

Findings & Decision by:

	Roy Lewis	9-8-05
Authorized Signature	Typed Name	Date of Decision

PART VIII: YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST JUDICIAL REVIEW

Appeals of medical dispute resolution decisions and orders are procedurally made directly to a district court in Travis County [see Texas Labor Code, Sec. 413.031(k), as amended and effective Sept. 1, 2005]. An appeal to District Court must be filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the decision that is the subject of the appeal is final and appealable. The Division is not considered a party to the appeal.

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