



# 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) 804-4000 | F: (512) 804-4811 | (800) 252-7031 | TDI.texas.gov | @TexasTDI

## ***MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION*** ***GENERAL INFORMATION***

**Requestor Name**

TEXAS ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL

**MFDR Tracking Number**

M4-09-0282

**MFDR Date Received**

September 22, 2008

**Respondent Name**

TEXAS MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

**Carrier's Austin Representative**

Box Number 54

### ***REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY***

**Requestor's Position Summary:** "...it is the position of the Provider that all charges relating to the admission of this claimant are due and payable and not subject to the improper reductions taken by the carrier in this case. The carrier's position is incorrect and in violation of the ACIHFG."

**Amount in Dispute:** \$10,242.34

### ***RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY***

**Respondent's Position Summary:** "Please note this is a Texas Star Network claim and provider (Exhibit 1) and as such is not under the jurisdiction of DWC MDR. Payment allowed was made through the network contract in effect and applied by Texas Star Network. Texas Mutual urges DWC to dismiss this dispute on this network claim for lack of jurisdiction."

**Response Submitted by:** Texas Mutual Insurance Company

### ***SUMMARY OF FINDINGS***

| Date(s) of Service                           | Disputed Service(s)        | Amount In Dispute | Amount Due |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| January 10, 2008 through<br>January 12, 2008 | Inpatient Facility Charges | \$10,242.34       | \$0.00     |

### ***FINDINGS AND DECISION***

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

#### **Background**

- 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305, sets out the procedures for resolving medical disputes.
- 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, sets out the procedures for resolving a medical fee dispute.
- Texas Insurance Code Chapter 1305 applicable to Health Care Certified Networks.
- 28 Texas Administrative Code §§10.120 through 10.122 address the submission of a complaint by a health care provider to the Health Care Network.

#### **Issues**

- Did the in-network healthcare provider render services to an in-network injured employee?
- Is the requestor eligible for medical fee dispute resolution pursuant to 28 Texas Administrative Code §§133.305 and 133.307?
- What may be the appropriate administrative remedy to address fee matters related to health care certified networks?

**Findings**

- 1. The requestor billed for Inpatient Facility Charges rendered on January 10, 2008 through January 12, 2008 to an injured employee enrolled in a certified healthcare network. The insurance carrier’s response indicates that both the healthcare provider and the injured employee are participants in a certified healthcare network.

The Division notified the requestor in July 2013 that the disputed services were provided to an injured employee enrolled in a certified network. The notification letter contained information outlining the dispute path for in-network providers and out-of-network providers. The Medical Fee Dispute Resolution (MFDR) section at the Texas Department of Insurance adjudicates non-network medical fee disputes. Documentation found indicates that the health care provider in this case treated an injured employee enrolled in a certified network. The Division finds that insufficient documentation was submitted to support that the disputed services are eligible for review by Medical Fee Dispute Resolution.

- 2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.305 (a) (4) defines a medical fee dispute as “A dispute that involves an amount of payment for **non-network** health care rendered to an injured employee (employee) that has been determined to be medically necessary and appropriate for treatment of that employee's compensable injury. The dispute is resolved by the Division pursuant to Division rules, including §133.307 of this subchapter (relating to MDR of Fee Disputes).” Non-network health care is defined in Section (a) (6) of the same rule as “Health care not delivered, or arranged by a certified workers compensation health care network as defined in Insurance Code Chapter 1305 and related rules...”

Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 (a) (3) “...In resolving **non-network** disputes which are over the amount of payment due for health care determined to be medically necessary and appropriate for treatment of a compensable injury, the role of the Division of Workers' Compensation (Division) is to adjudicate the payment, given the relevant statutory provisions and Division rules.” Adjudicating the fees for the disputed services would involve enforcing a law, regulation, or other provision related to the price of a service(s) provided by an in-network health care provider to an in-network injured employee. The Division finds the disputed services are not under the jurisdiction of the Division of Workers’ Compensation and therefore are not eligible for medical fee dispute resolution under 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307.

- 3. The TDI rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §§10.120 through 10.122 address the submission of a complaint by a health care provider to the Health Care Network. The Division finds that the disputed services may be filed to the Texas Department of Insurance’s (TDI) Complaint Resolution Process, if the health care provider or facility is dissatisfied with the outcome of the certified networks complaint process. The complaint process is outlined in Texas Insurance Code Subchapter I, §1305.401 - §1305.405 and may be the appropriate administrative remedy to address fee matters related to certified networks.

**Conclusion**

The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution. This decision is based upon a review of all the evidence presented by the parties in this dispute. Even though all the evidence was not discussed, it was considered. The Division finds that this dispute is not under the jurisdiction of the Division of Workers’ Compensation and is therefore not eligible for medical fee dispute resolution under 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307.

**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 26, 2016  
Date

**YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Either party to this medical fee dispute may appeal this decision by requesting a contested case hearing. 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, TDI, 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** along 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.