



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 telephone • 512-804-4811 fax • www.tdi.texas.gov

MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name
HEALTH SOUTH RIOSA

Respondent Name
NEW HAMPSHIRE INSURANCE CO

MFDR Tracking Number
M4-09-A109-01

Carrier's Austin Representative
Box Number 19

MFDR Date Received
June 25, 2009

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "To date claims still unpaid for inpatient rehabilitation."

Amount in Dispute: \$23,484.00

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: The insurance carrier did not respond to the DWC060 request. A copy of the DWC060 was placed in the insurance carrier representative box on Carrier July 14, 2009. A findings and decision will therefore be issued based on the documentation contained in the dispute at the time of the audit.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
July 10, 2008 through July 31, 2008 and August 1, 2008 through August 7, 2008	Inpatient Rehabilitation Charges	\$23,484.00	\$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 §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
- 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1 sets forth general provisions related to medical reimbursement.
- Texas Labor Code §413.011 sets forth provisions regarding reimbursement policies and guidelines.
- Neither party submitted copies of Explanation of Benefits (EOBs). The requestor submitted sufficient to documentation to support that the bills were submitted to the insurance carrier prior to the submission of the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Request. Therefore, the disputed charges will be reviewed pursuant to the division rules and guidelines.

Issues

1. Did the requestor file for dispute resolution in accordance with 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307?
2. Did the requestor submit sufficient documentation to support that the amount of payment sought is fair and reasonable?
3. Is the requestor entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c) (2) (B), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires that the request shall include “a copy of each explanation of benefits (EOB) . . . relevant to the fee dispute or, if no EOB was received, convincing documentation providing evidence of carrier receipt of the request for an EOB.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that the request does not include copies of any EOBs for the disputed services. Nor has the requestor provided evidence of carrier receipt of the request for an EOB. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c)(2)(B).
Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(F)(i), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires that the request shall include a position statement including “a description of the health care for which payment is in dispute.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not provided a description of the health care for which payment is in dispute. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c) (2) (F) (i).
Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(F)(iii), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires that the request shall include a position statement of the disputed issues including “how the Labor Code, Division rules, and fee guidelines impact the disputed fee issues.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not discussed how the Labor Code, Division rules and fee guidelines impact the disputed fee issues. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c) (2) (F) (iii).
Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(F)(iv), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires that the request shall include a position statement of the disputed issues including “how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not discussed how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(c) (2) (F) (IV).
2. This dispute relates to services with reimbursement subject to the provisions of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1, effective March 1, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 626, which requires that, in the absence of an applicable fee guideline or a negotiated contract, reimbursement for health care not provided through a workers’ compensation health care network shall be made in accordance with subsection 134.1(f), which states that “Fair and reasonable reimbursement shall: (1) be consistent with the criteria of Labor Code §413.011; (2) ensure that similar procedures provided in similar circumstances receive similar reimbursement; and (3) be based on nationally recognized published studies, published Division medical dispute decisions, and/or values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments, if available.”
Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual’s behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.
Former 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(c)(2)(G), effective May 25, 2008, 33 *Texas Register* 3954, applicable to requests filed on or after May 25, 2008, requires the requestor to provide “documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement in accordance with §134.1 of this title (relating to Medical Reimbursement) when the dispute involves health care for which the Division has not established a maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR), as applicable.” Review of the submitted documentation finds that:
 - The requestor has not articulated a methodology under which fair and reasonable reimbursement should be calculated.
 - The requestor did not submit documentation to support that payment of the amount sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in this dispute.
 - The requestor did not submit nationally recognized published studies or documentation of values assigned for services involving similar work and resource commitments to support the requested reimbursement.

- The requestor did not support that payment of the requested amount would satisfy the requirements of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1.

The request for additional reimbursement is not supported. Thorough review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. Additional payment cannot be recommended.

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, and the thorough review and consideration of that evidence. After thorough review and consideration of all the evidence presented by the parties to this dispute, it is determined that the submitted documentation does not support the reimbursement amount sought by the requestor. The Division concludes that this dispute was not filed in the form and manner prescribed under Division rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307. The Division further concludes that the requestor failed to support its position that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

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 services in dispute.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

April 11, 2014
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, 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.