



Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision

General Information

Requestor Name

Andrew Brylowski, M.D.

Respondent Name

Wesco Insurance Co.

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-25-1306-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 17

DWC Date Received

February 11, 2025

Summary of Findings

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
December 3, 2024 – December 23, 2024	96116	\$188.52	\$0.00
	96121	\$1,843.20	\$0.00
	96133	\$1,798.38	\$0.00
	96137	\$695.10	\$0.00
Total		\$4,525.20	\$0.00

Requestor's Position

"96116-51-59, 96121-51-59: Please note that 2 (TWO) HCFA CMS 1500 invoices are attached in combined format for the correct billing of multiple CPT codes necessary for the COMPREHENSIVE FORENSIC INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATION from a neuropsychiatric point of view.

"Please note that 2 Texas Administrative Code rules (TAC) apply:
TAC §127.10 - General procedures for Designated Doctor Examinations:

"(c) Additional testing and referrals. The designated doctor shall perform additional testing when necessary to resolve the issue in question. The designated doctor shall also refer an injured employee to other health care providers when the referral is necessary to resolve the issue in question and the designated doctor is not qualified to fully resolve the issue in question.

(1) Any additional testing or referral required for the evaluation is not subject to preauthorization

requirements.

(2) Payment for additional testing or referrals that the designated doctor has determined are necessary under this subsection must not be denied prospectively or retrospectively, regardless of any potential disagreements about medical necessity, extent of injury, or compensability.

(3) Any additional testing or referrals required for the evaluation are subject to the requirements of §180.24 of this title (relating to Financial Disclosure).

(4) Any additional testing or referrals required for the evaluation of an injured employee under a certified workers' compensation network under Insurance Code Chapter 1305 or a political subdivision under Labor Code §504.053(b):

(A) are not required to use a provider in the same network as the injured employee; and

(B) are not subject to the network or out-of-network restrictions in Insurance Code §1305.101 (relating to Providing or Arranging for Health Care).

"AND 28 TAC §42.15 also applies.

(4) Billing by report--The billing procedure to be used by a health care provider when:

(A) no procedural definition and/or dollar value is established in the board's fee guidelines for the treatment or service rendered; or

(B) when the provider determines that the procedural definition and/or dollar value established in the fee guidelines does not adequately describe the treatment or service rendered. (See §42.145 of this title (relating to Billing.))

"Please note there is no procedural definition established in the fee (Medicare) guidelines for a COMPREHENSIVE FORENSIC INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

"Amount Due: \$2,031.72

"96133 51-59, 96137 51-59:

Physical and neuro-behavioral examination along with diagnostic interview and additional testing that was forensically medically necessary for this examination such as neuropsychiatric testing and measures, blood work, imaging studies, etc. A history and diagnostic interview along with a review of medical records and collateral information that was available was done. Dr. Brylowski was asked to determine all or part of the following issues: 1. Impairment rating, 2. Maximum medical improvement date, 3. Ability of the employee to return to work, 4. Extent of the employee's compensable injury, 5. Whether the employee's disability is a direct result of the work injury, 6. Other similar issues. Neuropsychiatric testing interpretation, report preparation, as well as a review of medical records were accomplished.

This process involved approximately 14 hours of staff and physician time. Neuropsychiatric testing administration and interpretation, report preparation, review of medical records, literature search, AMA guides 4th edition, MDGuidelines, ODG, DSM 5, and other specialty guideline search as necessary were accomplished on December 2, 2024, December 3, 2024, December 4, 2024, December 10, 2024, December 11, 2024, December 12, 2024, December 13, 2024, December 19, 2024, December 20, 2024, December 22, 2024, and December 23, 2024. This process involved approximately 22 hours of physician time. Total hours for evaluation, forensic measure ordering, interpretation, and integration, neuropsychiatric testing supervision, scoring, and interpretation, urine drug evaluation and interpretation, literature and guideline search and

integration with report integration of this information in addition to the routine designated doctor issues was approximately 27 hours.

AMOUNT: \$2,493.48”

Total Amount in Dispute: \$4,525.20

Respondent's Position

“Attached is the EOB from the Carrier.”

Response submitted by: Downs & Stanford, P.C.

Findings and Decision

Authority

This medical fee dispute is decided according to [Texas Labor Code \(TLC\) §413.031](#) and applicable rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers’ Compensation (DWC).

Statutes and Rules

1. [28 Texas Administrative Code \(TAC\), Section 41](#) sets out the procedures for administration of workers’ compensation claims with dates of injury prior to January 1, 1991.
2. [28 TAC §127.10, effective April 30, 2023, 48 TexReg 2123](#), sets out the procedures for designated doctor examinations.
3. [28 TAC §133.307](#) sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
4. [28 TAC §134.203](#) sets out the fee guidelines for professional medical services.
5. [28 TAC §134.250, effective July 7, 2016, 41 TexReg 4839](#), sets out the fee guidelines for examinations to determine maximum medical improvement with dates of service prior to June 1, 2024.

Adjustment Reasons

- 236 – THIS PROCEDURE OR PROCEDURE/MODIFIER COMBINATION IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH ANOTHER PROCEDURE OR PROCEDURE/MODIFIER COMBINATION PROVIDED ON THE SAME DAY ACCORDING TO THE NCCI OR WORKERS COMPENSATION STATE REGULATIONS /FEE SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS.
- 435 - PER NCCI EDITS. THE VALUE OF THIS PROCEDURE IS INCLUDED IN THE VALUE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROCEDURE.
- 446 - THIS ADD-ON COOE HAS BEEN DENIED AS THE PRINCIPAL PROCEDURE WAS NOT BILLED.

- B15 - THIS SERVICE/PROCEDURE REQUIRES THAT A QUALIFYING SERVICE/PROCEDURE BE RECEIVED AND COVERED. THE QUALIFYING OTHER SERVICE/PROCEDURE HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED/ADJUDICATED.
- G15 - PRICING IS CALCULATED BASED ON THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL FEE SCHEDULE VALUE.
- P12 - WORKERS' COMPENSATION JURISDICTIONAL FEE SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT.

Issues

1. What are the applicable rules for reviewing the testing services in this dispute?
2. Is Dr. Brylowski entitled to reimbursement for procedure codes 96116 and 96121?
3. Is Dr. Brylowski entitled to additional reimbursement for the procedure codes 96133 and 96137?
4. Is Dr. Brylowski entitled to additional reimbursement for the disputed date of service?

Findings

1. The procedure codes in question are considered professional medical services. DWC will review these services for reimbursement in accordance with relevant rules.

Dr. Brylowski indicated that reimbursement should be evaluated based on rules found in "TAC §127.10."

While he referenced an older version of Chapter 127, Section 10, DWC finds that this rule in effect for the dates of service in question states in Subsection (c), in relevant part, "Additional testing and referrals. The designated doctor must perform additional testing when necessary to resolve the issue in question. The designated doctor must also refer an injured employee to other health care providers when the referral is necessary to resolve the issue in question, and the designated doctor is not qualified to fully resolve it.

- (1) Any additional testing or referrals required for the evaluation are not subject to preauthorization requirements.
- (2) Payment for additional testing or referrals that the designated doctor has determined are necessary under this subsection must not be denied prospectively or retrospectively, regardless of any potential disagreements about medical necessity, extent of injury, or compensability.
- (3) Any additional testing or referrals required for the evaluation are subject to the requirements of §180.24 of this title (relating to Financial Disclosure).
- (4) Any additional testing or referrals required for the evaluation of an injured employee under a certified workers' compensation network under Insurance Code Chapter 1305 or a political subdivision under Labor Code §504.053(b):
 - (A) are not required to use a provider in the same network as the injured employee; and

(B) are not subject to the network or out-of-network restrictions in Insurance Code §1305.101 (relating to Providing or Arranging for Health Care).

DWC reviewed the explanations of benefits submitted and found that the insurance carrier did not deny payment based on medical necessity, preauthorization requirements, extent of injury, compensability, or network status. Therefore, this rule is not applicable to the dispute in question.

Dr. Brylowski also referenced "28 TAC §42.15." It is important to note that the Texas Administrative Code, Title 28, Chapters 41 through 69 are applicable only to claims with dates of injury prior to January 1, 1991. Therefore, they do not pertain to the claim that is the subject of this dispute.

Dr. Brylowski further states that "there is no procedural definition established in the fee (Medicare) guidelines for a COMPREHENSIVE FORENSIC INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATION." The documentation submitted to DWC fails to demonstrate how the services in question are substantively different from the defined services as billed. For this reason, DWC must review the services in question based on the fee guidelines that are applicable to those services.

Reimbursement policies for professional services are found in 28 TAC §134.203, which states, in relevant part: "(b) 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."

Reimbursement fee guidelines for professional services are addressed in 28 TAC §134.203(c), which states in relevant part: "To determine the 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 ...
- (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 ..."

2. Dr. Brylowski is seeking reimbursement for procedure code 96116 which is defined as "Neurobehavioral status exam (clinical assessment of thinking, reasoning, and judgment, [e.g., acquired knowledge, attention, language, memory, planning, and problem solving, and visual spatial abilities]), by physician or other qualified health care professional, both face-to-face time with the patient and time interpreting test results and preparing the report; first hour.

Behavioral exam with interpretation and report. Usually involves clinical assessment of skills in acquired knowledge, attention, memory, visual spatial abilities, language, or planning. The physician or psychologist evaluates aspects of thinking, reasoning, and judgment to evaluate a patient's neurocognitive abilities. These codes apply to each hour of examination time and must include face-to-face time with the patient and time spent interpreting test results and preparing a report. Report 96116 for the initial hour and 96121 for each additional hour."

Dr. Brylowski billed one unit of procedure code 96116 with appended modifiers 51 and 59. He also billed 12 units of timed add-on code 96121 with modifiers 51 and 59. On the same date and medical bill, Dr. Brylowski billed procedure code 90792-51-59.

[Medicare's CCI manual Chapter XI](#), Section M.1 states, "Neurobehavioral status exam (CPT codes 96116 and 96121) shall not be reported when a mini-mental status examination is performed. CPT codes 96116 and 96121 shall not be reported with psychiatric diagnostic examinations (CPT codes 90791 or 90792). CPT codes 96116 and 96121 may be reported with other psychiatric services or E&M services only if a complete neurobehavioral status exam is performed. If a mini-mental status examination is performed by a physician, it is included in the E&M service."

DWC reviewed Medicare's CCI edits for this procedure code and found that an edit conflict exists between procedure code 90792 and 96116, with procedure code 90792 as the primary code. No modifier is allowed to override this edit. Therefore, reimbursement cannot be recommended for CPT code 96116. Because disputed timed procedure code 96121 is an add-on code for timed procedure code 96116, no reimbursement can be recommended for CPT code 96121. The insurance company has already paid for CPT code 90792; thus, it is uncontested.

3. Dr. Brylowski is seeking additional reimbursement for procedure codes 96133 and 96137, which are timed add-on codes to procedure codes 96132 and 96136, respectively, billed on the same disputed date and medical bill together.

On the disputed date of service, Dr. Brylowski billed for and has been reimbursed for procedure code 96132, which is defined as "Neuropsychological testing evaluation services by physician or other qualified health care professional, including integration of patient data, interpretation of standardized test results and clinical data, clinical decision making, treatment planning and report, and interactive feedback to the patient, family member(s) or caregiver(s), when performed; first hour. The physician or other qualified health care professional evaluates and interprets the results of psychological or neuropsychological testing ... Neuropsychological testing consists of a series of tests in thinking, reasoning, judgment, and memory to evaluate the patient's neurocognitive abilities. Report 96132 for the first hour of evaluation/ interpretation and 96133 for each additional hour thereafter. Codes within this range describe the evaluation component, including combining data from different sources, interpreting test results and clinical data, decision-making, and providing a plan of treatment and report, as well as providing interactive feedback with the patient and family members or caregivers. These codes apply to each hour of evaluation and must include face-to-face time with the patient, as well as the time spent integrating and interpreting data; however, the actual test administration and scoring services are not

reported by these codes." Disputed procedure code 96133 is a timed add-on code for procedure code 96132.

On the disputed date of service, Dr. Brylowski billed for and has been reimbursed for procedure code 96136, which is defined as, "Psychological or neuropsychological test administration and scoring by physician or other qualified health care professional, two or more tests, any method; first 30 minutes. A physician, other qualified health care professional, or technician administers and scores two or more psychological or neuropsychological tests by any method ... neuropsychological testing consists of a series of tests in thinking, reasoning, judgment, and memory to evaluate the patient's neurocognitive abilities. Report 96136 for the initial 30 minutes of time by a physician or other qualified health care professional and 96137 for each additional 30 minutes." Disputed procedure code 96137 is a timed add-on code for procedure code 96136.

Medicare's CCI manual Chapter XI, Section M.2 states, "The psychiatric diagnostic interview examination (CPT codes 90791, 90792), psychological/neuropsychological testing (CPT codes 96136-96146), and psychological/ neuropsychological evaluation services (CPT codes 96130-96133) must be distinct services if reported on the same date of service. CPT Professional instructions permit physicians to integrate other sources of clinical data into the report that is generated for CPT codes 96130-96133. Since the procedures described by CPT codes 96130-96139 are timed procedures, providers/suppliers shall not report time for duplicating information (collection or interpretation) included in the psychiatric diagnostic interview examination and/or psychological/neuropsychological evaluation services or test administration and scoring."

Dr. Brylowski billed for 12 units of procedure code 96133 and for 12 units of procedure code 96137. A review of the medical report submitted does not list the start and end time to support the number of hours billed for add-on timed procedure codes 96133 and 96137; therefore, Dr. Brylowski is not entitled to additional reimbursement for these codes as defined.

4. Dr. Brylowski is seeking additional reimbursement in the total amount of \$4,525.20 for the services in dispute. For reasons outlined in findings number two and three above, DWC finds that Dr. Brylowski is not entitled to additional reimbursement for CPT codes 96121, 96116, 96133 and 96137 rendered December 3, 2024, through December 23, 2024.

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.

DWC 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 additional reimbursement in the amount of \$0.00 for the services in dispute

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

May 2, 2025
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 three 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 tres o correo electrónico CompConnection@tdi.texas.gov.