



Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision

General Information

Requester Name

John E. Slaughter, D.C.

Respondent Name

Zurich American Insurance Company

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-25-1899-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

DWC Date Received

April 16, 2025

Summary of Findings

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
June 18, 2024	Designated Doctor Examination 99456-W5	\$1,026.00	\$1,026.00
June 18, 2024	Designated Doctor Examination 99456-W6	\$642.00	\$642.00
June 18, 2024	Designated Doctor Examination 99456-W7	\$642.00	\$642.00
Total		\$2,310.00	\$2,310.00

Requester's Position

“(F) a position statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include: (i) a description of the health care for which payment is in dispute, DESIGNATED DOCTOR EXAM (ii) the requester’s reasoning for why the disputed fees should be paid or refunded, CARRIER IS REQUIRED TO PAY DESIGNATED DOCTOR EXAMS (iii) how the Labor Code, Division rules, and fee guidelines impact the disputed fee issues, and THE CURRENT RULES ALLOW REIMBURSEMENT (iv) how the submitted documentation supports the requester position for each disputed fee issue; AN ORIGINAL BILL AND A RECONSIDERATION WERE SUBMITTED, THE CURRENT RULES ALLOW REIMBURSEMENT.”

Amount in Dispute: \$2,310.00

Respondent's Position

The Austin carrier representative for Zurich American Insurance Company is Flahive, Ogden & Latson. Flahive, Ogden & Latson was notified of this medical fee dispute on April 23, 2025. Rule §133.307(d)(1) states that if the division does not receive the response within 14 calendar days of the dispute notification, then the division may base its decision on the available information. As of today, no response has been received from the carrier or its representative. We therefore base this decision on the information available as authorized under §133.307(d)(1).

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 \(TAC\) §133.307](#) sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. [28 TAC §134.2](#) sets out the incentive payments for underserved areas.
3. [28 TAC §134.210](#) sets out the fee guidelines for workers' compensation specific services.
4. [28 TAC §133.240](#) sets out the requirements for submission of a medical bill.
5. [28 TAC §134.240](#) sets out the fee guidelines for designated doctor examinations.

Denial Reasons

Neither party submitted an explanation of benefits (EOBs) for consideration in this dispute. Accordingly, the review is based on the information available at the time of the review.

Issues

1. Did Zurich American Insurance Company take final action on the bill for the disputed service before medical fee dispute resolution was requested?
2. Is John E. Slaughter, D.C., entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. Dr. John E. Slaughter is seeking reimbursement for a designated doctor examination to determine maximum medical improvement, impairment rating, extent of injury, and disability of an upper extremity and spine performed on June 18, 2024. The insurance carrier did not provide a response to this dispute. DWC will base its decision on the available information.

Dr. Slaughter mentioned in the documentation that no payment or an explanation of denial for medical bills were received for the examination in question.

28 TAC §133.240 (a) requires the insurance carrier to take final action by paying, reducing, or denying the service in question not later than 45 days after receiving the medical bill. This deadline is not extended by a request for additional information.

The greater weight of evidence presented to DWC supports that a complete bill for the services in question was received by the insurance carrier or its agent. No evidence was provided to support the fact that the insurance carrier took final action on the bill for the service in question.

2. Because Zurich American Insurance Company failed to provide any defense of its non-payment for the services in question, Dr. Slaughter is entitled to reimbursement.

28 TAC §134.240(d)(3) states, "MMI. MMI evaluations will be reimbursed at \$449 adjusted per §134.210(b)(4), and the designated doctor must apply the additional modifier 'W5.'"

28 TAC §134.240(d)(4) states, in relevant part, "IR. For IR examinations, the designated doctor must bill, and the insurance carrier must reimburse, the components of the IR evaluation. The designated doctor must apply the additional modifier 'W5.' Indicate the number of body areas rated in the units column of the billing form." Per subsection (A)(ii)(I), "the reimbursement for the first musculoskeletal body area is \$385 adjusted per §134.210(b)(4)." Per subsection (A)(ii)(II), "the reimbursement for each additional musculoskeletal body area is \$192 adjusted per §134.210(b)(4)."

28 TAC §134.240(5) states, "Extent of injury. The reimbursement rate for determining the extent of the employee's compensable injury is \$642 adjusted per §134.210(b)(4), and the designated doctor must apply the additional modifier 'W6.'"

28 TAC §134.240(5) states, "Disability. The reimbursement rate for determining whether the injured employee's disability is a direct result of the work-related injury is \$642 adjusted per §134.210(b)(4), and the designated doctor must apply the additional modifier 'W7.'"

A review of the submitted medical record finds that the requester provided an evaluation of maximum medical improvement (MMI), impairment rating (IR) of two musculoskeletal body areas, an extent of injury exam and a disability exam.

In accordance with 28 TAC §134.240, the reimbursements which apply to the disputed examination rendered on June 18, 2024, are:

Designated Doctor Exam Fees for dates of service 6/1/2024 - 12/31/2024	
MMI exam	\$449
IR exam first musculoskeletal (MSK) body area	\$385
IR exam for additional MSK body area	\$192
Extent-of-injury exam	\$642

Disability exam	\$642
Total	\$2,310.00

DWC finds that reimbursement in the amount of \$2,310.00 is due for the services in dispute.

Conclusion

The outcome of this medical fee dispute is based on the evidence presented by the requester and the respondent at the time of adjudication. Though all evidence may not have been discussed, it was considered.

DWC finds the requester has established that reimbursement of \$2,310.00 is due.

Order

Under Texas Labor Code §§413.031 and 413.019, DWC has determined the requester is entitled to reimbursement for the disputed services. It is ordered that Zurich American Insurance Company must remit to Dr. John E. Slaughter \$2,310.00 plus applicable accrued interest within 30 days of receiving this order in accordance with 28 TAC §134.130.

Authorized Signature

		July 18, 2025
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	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.