



Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision

General Information

Requestor Name

Midland Memorial Hospital

Respondent Name

Zurich American Insurance Co

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-25-2303-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

DWC Date Received

May 20, 2025

Summary of Findings

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
March 3 – 9, 2024	ER Inpatient	\$19,359.53	\$0.00

Requestor's Position

"Please review for dispute of timely filing denial. Per attached documents the bill was electronically submitted to payer on 04/15/24 for processing prior to timely."

Amount in Dispute: \$19,359.53

Respondent's Position

"The provider filed its DWC 60, requesting Medical Fee Dispute Resolution with DWC on May 20, 2025. However, the dates of service are between March 3, 2024 and March 9, 2024. The provider was required to file its DWC 60 with DWC no later than one year following the date of service."

Response submitted by: Flahive, Ogden & Latson

Findings and Decision

Authority

This medical fee dispute is decided according to [Texas Labor Code §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.

Denial Reasons

The insurance carrier denied the payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:

- 29 – The time limit for filing has expired.
- 11 – The diagnosis is inconsistent with the procedure.
- 18 – Exact duplicate claim/service
- W3 – In accordance with TDI-DWC Rule 134.804, this bill has been identified as a request for reconsideration or appeal.

Issues

1. Is the respondent's position supported?
2. Did the requestor waive the right to medical fee dispute resolution?

Findings

1. The respondent (Flahive, Ogden & Latson) includes the following as part of their response to MFDR, "It is the Carrier's position that the services provided were not related to the compensable injury".

DWC 28 TAC §133.307(d)(2)(H) requires that if the medical fee dispute involves compensability, extent of injury, or liability, the insurance carrier shall attach a copy of any related Plain Language Notice in accordance with Rule §124.2 (relating to carrier reporting and notification requirements).

DWC 28 TAC §124.2(h) requires notification to the division and claimant of any dispute of disability or extent of injury using plain language notices with language and content prescribed by the division. Such notices "shall provide a full and complete statement describing the carrier's action and its reason(s) for such action. The statement must contain sufficient claim-specific substantive information to enable the employee/legal beneficiary to understand the carrier's position or action taken on the claim."

Review of the submitted information finds no copies, as required by Rule §133.307(d)(2)(H), of any PLN-11 or PLN 1 notices issued in accordance with Rule §124.2. The insurance carrier's denial reason is therefore not supported. Furthermore, because the respondent failed to meet the requirements of Rule §133.307(d)(2)(H) regarding notice of issues of extent of injury, the respondent has waived the right to raise such issues during dispute resolution. Consequently, the division concludes there are no outstanding issues of compensability, extent, or liability for the injury.

The respondent also states, "...the claimant is in the Texas Healthcare Network, which is a certified network." The authority of the Division of Workers' Compensation, to resolve matters involving employees enrolled in a certified health care network is limited to the conditions outlined in the applicable portions of the Texas Insurance Code (TIC), Chapter 1305 and limited application of Texas Labor Code statutes and rules, including 28 TAC §133.307.

Texas Insurance Code §1305.106 provides that "An insurance carrier that establishes or contracts with a network is liable for the following **out-of-network** health care that is provided to an injured employee... (3) health care provided by an out-of-network provider pursuant to a referral from the injured employee's treating doctor that has been approved by the network pursuant to Section [1305.103](#)."

TIC §1305.153 (c) provides that "Out-of-network providers who provide care as described by §1305.006 shall be reimbursed as provided by the Texas Workers' Compensation Act and applicable rules of the commissioner of workers' compensation."

TIC §1305.006 titled *INSURANCE CARRIER LIABILITY FOR OUT-OF-NETWORK HEALTH CARE*, states, "An insurance carrier that establishes or contracts with a network is liable for the following out-of-network healthcare that is provided to an injured employee:

(1) Emergency Care;

Review of the submitted medical records found the injured employee was seen in the emergency room and then discharged but once symptoms became worse returned to the emergency room and was admitted. The submitted medical records indicate the (redacted) injury that first required the patient to be seen were emergent in nature and as symptoms after discharge became worse overnight the injured worker sought emergency care.

2. The requestor is seeking payment for an inpatient hospital stay from March 3 – 9, 2024. DWC Rule 28 TAC §133.307(c)(1) states:

"Timeliness. A requestor shall timely file with the Division's MDR Section or waive the right to MDR. The Division shall deem a request to be filed on the date the division receives the request.

(A) A request for medical fee dispute resolution that does not involve issues identified in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph shall be filed no later than one year after the date(s) of service in dispute.

(B) A request may be filed later than one year after the date(s) of service if:

(i) a related compensability, extent of injury, or liability dispute under Labor Code

Chapter 410 has been filed, the medical fee dispute shall be filed not later than 60 days after the date the requestor receives the final decision, inclusive of all appeals, on compensability, extent of injury, or liability;

(ii) a medical dispute regarding medical necessity has been filed, the medical fee dispute must be filed not later than 60 days after the date the requestor received the final decision on medical necessity, inclusive of all appeals, related to the health care in dispute and for which the insurance carrier previously denied payment based on medical necessity; or

(iii) the dispute relates to a refund notice issued pursuant to a division audit or review, the medical fee dispute must be filed not later than 60 days after the date of the receipt of a refund notice.

While the insurance carrier denied the services upon reconsideration for relatedness, Insufficient evidence was found to support a final decision has been requested or made to review the medical necessity of the disputed services.

The dates of the service in dispute are March 3 – 9, 2024. The request for medical dispute resolution was received at the Division on May 20, 2025.

Review of the submitted documentation found insufficient evidence to support an exception as detailed above. The requestor has waived their right to MFDR for dates of service in dispute.

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 requester has not established that reimbursement is due.

Order

Under Texas Labor Code §§413.031 and 413.019, DWC has determined the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the disputed services.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

June 9, 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 3 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 3 o correo electrónico CompConnection@tdi.texas.gov.