



MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

General Information

Requester Name

Mark R. Bronson, D.C.

Respondent Name

City of Arlington

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-26-0059-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 19

DWC Date Received

September 5, 2025

Summary of Findings

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
March 7, 2025	Designated Doctor Examination 99456-W5	\$863.00	\$863.00

Requester's Position

"We are requesting reimbursement for a DDE ordered by the DWC per Rule Chapter 134... The included documentation shows we submitted the report and billing per DWC rules."

Excerpt from the Request for Reconsideration dated July 31, 2025: "We have not received payment for this service. I spoke to [name] this afternoon, she confirmed the bill has not been loaded into the system. This bill was submitted on three separate occasions and is overdue."

Amount in Dispute: \$863.00

Respondent's Position

The Austin carrier representative for City of Arlington is Flahive, Ogden & Latson. The representative was notified of this medical fee dispute on September 9, 2025. Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 (d)(1), if the DWC does not receive the response within 14 calendar days of the dispute notification, then the DWC may base its decision on the available information. As of today, no response has been received from the insurance carrier or its representative. We will base this decision on the information available.

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.
2. [28 TAC §134.240](#) sets out the fee guidelines for examinations to determine maximum medical improvement and impairment rating.
3. [28 TAC §134.210](#) sets out the medical fee guideline for Workers' Compensation specific services.

Adjustment Reasons

Neither party submitted an explanation of benefits with reasons for reduction or denial of payment for the disputed services.

Issues

1. What rules apply to the service in dispute?
2. Have the services in dispute been allowed reimbursement as of the date of this review?
3. Is the requester entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. This medical fee dispute involves an examination by a designated doctor for the purpose of establishing: if maximum medical improvement (MMI) has been reached; what date MMI was reached if applicable; and to provide impairment ratings (IR) if MMI has been reached.

On the disputed date of service, the requester billed a total amount of \$863.00 for CPT code 99456-W5. CPT code 99456 indicates the service of a maximum medical improvement (MMI) and/or impairment rating (IR) examination by a designated doctor.

DWC finds that 28 TAC §134.240, adopted to be effective June 1, 2024, applies to the reimbursement of the services in dispute. 28 TAC §134.240 (d), states in pertinent part,

"(2) (C) If the designated doctor determines MMI has been reached and an IR evaluation is performed, both the MMI evaluation and the IR evaluation portions of the examination must be billed and reimbursed in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

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

(4) 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 unit's column of the billing form.

(A) For musculoskeletal body areas, the designated doctor may bill for a maximum of three body areas.

(i) Musculoskeletal body areas are:

(I) spine and pelvis; (musculoskeletal structures of torso)

(II) upper extremities and hands; and

(III) lower extremities (including feet).

(ii) For musculoskeletal body areas:

(I) the reimbursement for the first musculoskeletal body area is \$385 adjusted per §134.210(b)(4); and

(II) the reimbursement for each additional musculoskeletal body area is \$192 adjusted per §134.210(b)(4).

(B) For non-musculoskeletal body areas, the designated doctor must bill, and the insurance carrier must reimburse, for each non-musculoskeletal body area examined.

(i) Non-musculoskeletal body areas are defined as follows:

(I) body systems;

(II) body structures (including skin); and

(III) mental and behavioral disorders.

(ii) For a complete list of body system and body structure non-musculoskeletal body areas, refer to the appropriate AMA Guides.

(iii) The reimbursement for the assignment of an IR in a non-musculoskeletal body area is \$192 adjusted per §134.210(b)(4)."

DWC finds that 28 TAC §134.210 applies to the annual fee adjustment of the disputed services, stating in pertinent part, "(b)(4) Fees established in §§134.235, 134.240, 134.250, and 134.260 of this title will be:

"(A) adjusted once by applying the Medicare Economic Index (MEI) percentage adjustment factor for the period 2009 - 2024.

(B) adjusted annually by applying the MEI percentage adjustment factor identified in §134.203(c)(2).

(C) rounded to whole dollars by dropping amounts under 50 cents and increasing amounts from 50 to 99 cents to the next dollar. For example, \$1.39 becomes \$1 and \$2.50 becomes \$3.

(D) effective on January 1 of each new calendar year."

2. A review of the submitted documentation finds no evidence that the insurance carrier has responded to the medical bill submitted for the services in dispute and no evidence that the services in dispute have received reimbursement in any amount.

DWC finds that the services in dispute have not received reimbursement as of the date of this review.

3. The requester, Mark R. Bronson, D.C., is seeking reimbursement in the amount of \$863.00 for a designated doctor examination rendered on March 7, 2025.

The submitted medical record supports that the requester, a designated doctor, performed an evaluation of maximum medical improvement (MMI) as ordered by DWC. Per 28 TAC §134.240 (d), the maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) for this examination is \$465.00.

A review of the submitted medical record additionally finds that the requester performed an impairment rating (IR) evaluation of one musculoskeletal body area. The rule at 28 TAC §134.240 defines the fees for the calculation of an impairment rating for musculoskeletal body areas. The MAR for the evaluation of the first musculoskeletal area performed is \$398.00.

The requester assigned an impairment rating for one musculoskeletal body area. The total allowable reimbursement for the impairment ratings in this designated doctor examination is \$398.00.

In accordance with 28 TAC §134.240, the reimbursements which apply to the disputed examination rendered on March 7, 2025, are:

- For an MMI examination, reimbursement is \$465.00.
- For impairment rating of one musculoskeletal body area, reimbursement is \$398.00.
- DWC finds that the total MAR for the examination in question is \$863.00.
- The insurance carrier paid \$0.00 as of the date of this review.
- Reimbursement in the amount of \$863.00 is recommended.

DWC finds that reimbursement in the amount of \$863.00 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 is due in the amount of \$863.00.

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 City of Arlington must remit to Mark R. Bronson, D.C., \$863.00 plus applicable accrued interest within 30 days of receiving this order in accordance with 28 TAC §134.130.

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

December 18, 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.