



Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision

General Information

Requester Name

Donald Mondragon, M.D.

Respondent Name

National Liability & Fire Ins

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-26-0794-01

Insurance Carrier's Austin Representative

BOX 6 Stone Loughlin & Swanson LLP

DWC Date Received

November 19, 2025

Summary of Findings

Date(s) of Service	Disputed Services	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
June 13, 2025	99456-NM Designated Doctor Examination	\$449.00	\$449.00
Total		\$449.00	\$449.00

Requester's Position

"No response or correspondence to bill or reconsideration."

Amount In Dispute: \$449.00

Respondent's Position

The Austin carrier representative for National Liability & Fire Insurance is Stone Loughlin & Swanson LLP. The representative was notified of this medical fee dispute on November 21, 2025.

Per 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(d)(1), if DWC does not receive the response within 14 calendar days of the dispute notification, then 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 Section [413.031](#) and other applicable laws and rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC).

Statutes and Rules

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Section [133.307](#) sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 TAC Section [133.240](#) sets out the procedures for payment, reduction, or denial of a medical bill.
3. 28 TAC Section [134.240](#) sets out the fee guidelines for designated doctor examinations.

Adjustment Reasons

Neither party submitted an explanation of benefits for the disputed services.

Issues

1. What is DWC considering in this medical fee dispute?
2. Did National Liability & Fire Insurance take final action on the bill for the disputed service before medical fee dispute resolution was requested?
3. Is the requester entitled to reimbursement?

Findings

1. Dr. Mondragon is seeking reimbursement for a designated doctor examination to determine maximum medical improvement (MMI) performed on June 13, 2025. The insurance carrier did not respond to the medical fee dispute resolution request. DWC may base its decision on the available information.
2. Dr. Mondragon mentioned in the documentation that no payment or explanation of denial for medical bills was received for the examination in question.

28 TAC Section 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 submitted by the insurance carrier or its agent. No evidence was provided to support that the insurance carrier took final action on the bill for the service in question.

3. Because National Liability & Fire Insurance failed to provide any defense of its non-payment

for the services in question, Dr. Mondragon is entitled to reimbursement.

28 TAC Section 134.240(d) states, "When conducting a designated doctor examination, the designated doctor must bill, and the insurance carrier must reimburse, using CPT code 99456 and with the modifiers and rates specified in subsections (d)(1) - (7)."

28 TAC Section 134.240(d)(2)(A) states, "A designated doctor must only bill and be reimbursed for an MMI or IR examination if they are an authorized doctor in accordance with the Labor Code and Chapter 130 and §180.23 of this title. (A) If the designated doctor determines that MMI has not been reached, the MMI evaluation portion of the examination must be billed and reimbursed in accordance with subsection (d) of this section. The designated doctor must add modifier 'NM.'"

A review of the submitted medical record finds that the requester provided an evaluation of maximum medical improvement (MMI) exam.

In accordance with 28 TAC Section 134.240, the reimbursements which apply to the disputed examination rendered on June 13, 2025, are:

Designated Doctor Exam Fees for dates of service 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2025	
Annual MEI percentage 3.5%	
MMI exam	\$465.00

The total allowable reimbursement is \$465.00. The requester is seeking \$449.00. This amount is recommended.

Conclusion

The outcome of this medical fee dispute is based on the evidence requester and the respondent presented 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.

Order

Under Texas Labor Code Sections [413.031](#) and [413.019](#), DWC has determined the requester is entitled to reimbursement for the disputed services. It is ordered that National Liability & Fire Insurance must remit to Donald Mondragon, M.D. \$449.00 plus applicable accrued interest within 30 days of receiving this order in accordance with 28 TAC Section [134.130](#).

Authorized Signature

Signature

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

February 24, 2026

Date

Your Right to Appeal

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision under 28 TAC Section [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 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 this *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision*** with any other required information listed in 28 TAC Section [141.1\(d\)](#).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de esta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 800-252-7031, opción tres o correo electrónico CompConnection@tdi.texas.gov.