

MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Requestor: (x) HCP () IE () IC	Response Timely Filed? () Yes (x) No
Requestor's Name and Address HCA Spring Branch Medical Center 3701 Kirby Drive, Suite 1288 Houston, Texas 77098-3926	MDR Tracking No.: M4-05-0809-01
	TWCC No.:
	Injured Employee's Name:
Respondent's Name and Address Zurich American Insurance Company C/O Flahive-Ogden & Latson 505 West 12 th Street Austin, Texas 78701	Date of Injury:
	Employer's Name:
	Insurance Carrier's No.: 900000273

PART II: SUMMARY OF DISPUTE AND FINDINGS

Dates of Service		CPT Code(s) or Description	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
From	To			
09-26-03	10-01-03	Surgical Admission	\$6,124.38	\$0.00

PART III: REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

It is the requestor's position that reimbursement was improperly determined pursuant to the acute care in-patient hospital fee guidelines of the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission ("TWCC").

PART IV: RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Medical bills in excess of \$40,000.00 do not automatically qualify for stop-loss reimbursement. Rather, the per diem rate is the default and preferred method of reimbursement that must be employed unless the hospital justifies use of the stop-loss method in a particular case.

PART V: MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION REVIEW SUMMARY, METHODOLOGY, AND/OR EXPLANATION

This dispute relates to inpatient services provided in hospital setting with reimbursement subject to the provisions of Rule 134.401 (Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline). The hospital has requested additional reimbursement according to the stop-loss method contained in that rule. Rule 134.401(c)(6) establishes that the stop-loss method is to be used for "unusually costly services." The explanation that follows this paragraph indicates that in order to determine if "unusually costly services" were provided, the admission must not only exceed \$40,000 in total audited charges, but also involve "unusually extensive services."

Documentation provided by the provider was incomplete and it cannot be determined that this particular admission involved "unusually extensive services." Accordingly, the stop-loss method does not apply and the reimbursement is to be based on the per diem plus carve-out methodology described in the same rule.

The total length of stay for this admission was five (5) days (consisting of 5 surgical days). Accordingly, the standard per diem amount due for this admission is equal to \$5,590.00 (5 X \$1,118.00), however, the requestor only billed \$3,645.00. In addition, the hospital is entitled to additional reimbursement for (implantables/MRIs/CAT Scans/pharmaceuticals) as follows:

The requestor did not submit a copy of the invoice(s) for the implantables, therefore no reimbursement can be determined.

The carrier has reimbursed the provider 42,435.54.

Considering the reimbursement amount calculated in accordance with the provisions of rule 134.401(c) compared with the amount

previously paid by the insurance carrier, we find that no additional reimbursement is due for these services.

PART VI: COMMISSION DECISION

Based upon the review of the disputed healthcare services, the Medical Review Division has determined that the requestor is **not** entitled to additional reimbursement.

Ordered by:

Authorized Signature

Typed Name

03-03-05

Date of Order

PART VII: YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of the Decision and has a right to request a hearing. A request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings/Appeals Clerk within 20 (twenty) days of your receipt of this decision (28 Texas Administrative Code § 148.3). This Decision was mailed to the health care provider and placed in the Austin Representatives box on _____. This Decision is deemed received by you five days after it was mailed and the first working day after the date the Decision was placed in the Austin Representative's box (28 Texas Administrative Code § 102.5(d)). A request for a hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings/Appeals Clerk, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744 or faxed to (512) 804-4011. A copy of this Decision should be attached to the request.

The party appealing the Division's Decision shall deliver a copy of their written request for a hearing to the opposing party involved in the dispute.

Si prefiere hablar con una persona in español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.

PART VIII: INSURANCE CARRIER DELIVERY CERTIFICATION

I hereby verify that I received a copy of this Decision and Order in the Austin Representative's box.

Signature of Insurance Carrier: _____ Date: _____