

MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Requestor: (x) HCP () IE () IC	Response Timely Filed? (x) Yes () No
Requestor's Name and Address Vista Hospital of Dallas 4301 Vista Road Pasadena, Texas 77504	MDR Tracking No.: M4-05-1374-01
	TWCC No.:
	Injured Employee's Name:
Respondent's Name and Address Target CORP Sedgwick Claims Management Services, Inc. ATTN: Susan Holt Richardson, Texas 75080 Box 39	Date of Injury:
	Employer's Name: Target Corporation
	Insurance Carrier's No.: 039CBB0R5766

PART II: SUMMARY OF DISPUTE AND FINDINGS

Dates of Service		CPT Code(s) or Description	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
From	To			
11/03/03	11/05/03	Surgical Admission	\$13,048.31	\$0.00

PART III: REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

“According to the literal interpretation of TWCC Rule 134.401 and the further clarification by the TWCC from QRL 01-03, a Carrier may not ‘deduct’ any carve-out costs listed in Rule 134.401(c)(4). Further, additional reimbursement for implants or any other ‘carve-out costs’ shall only be reimbursed at cost plus 10% if the stop-loss threshold is NOT met. Therefore, in this instance, the Carrier has severely under-reimbursed the billed charges, despite the clear language in the Texas Administrative Codes and further clarification by the TWCC in QRL 01-03.”

PART IV: RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

“This is a medical fee dispute arising from an inpatient hospital surgical admission, dates of service 11/3/2003 through 11/5/2003. Requestor billed a total of \$52,400.45. The Requestor asserts it is entitled to reimbursement in the amount of \$39,300.34, which is 75% of the total charges. Requestor has not shown entitlement to this alternative, exceptional method of calculating reimbursement and has not otherwise properly calculated the audited charges.”

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.”

After reviewing the information provided by the provider, it does **not** appear 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 operative report indicates that this was a removal of lumbar hardware and exploration of lumbar fusion. The operative report also indicates there were no complications and patient was transferred to recovery in satisfactory condition.

The carrier made reimbursement based on per diem for the 2-day stay for a total reimbursement of \$26,252.03. The carrier correctly reimbursed the provider.

Therefore, based on the facts of this situation, the parties' positions, and the application of the provisions of Rule 134.401(c), we find that the health care provider is not entitled to additional reimbursement.

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:

Michael Bucklin

05/10/05

Authorized Signature

Typed Name

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: _____