

MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of Requestor: (X) Health Care Provider () Injured Employee () Insurance Carrier

Requestor's Name and Address
Surgical & Diagnostic Center, LP
729 Bedford Eules Rd., West, Suite 100
Hurst TX 76053

MDR Tracking No.: M4-05-1950-01

TWCC No.:

Injured Employee's Name:

Respondent's Name and Address BOX: 19

American Home Assurance Co.

Date of Injury:

Employer's Name: AMR Corporation

Insurance Carrier's No.: 566C 26546

PART II: SUMMARY OF DISPUTE AND FINDINGS

| Dates of Service | | CPT Code(s) or Description | Amount in Dispute | Amount Due |
|------------------|----|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| From | To | | | |
| 12/3/03 | | 03.92 – Caudal therapeutic ESI | \$643.23 | \$0.00 |
| | | 82947 – Lab. | 33.00 | \$0.00 |
| 1/13/04 | | 03.92 – Caudal therapeutic ESI | \$633.37 | \$0.00 |
| | | 82947 – Lab. | \$33.00 | \$0.00 |
| 7/19/04 | | 03.93 – Trial Implanatation | \$2,238.60 | \$0.00 |
| | | | | |

PART III: REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

“We are appealing the amount disallowed...We feel that the amount paid on three epidural steroid injections is not fair or reasonable...\$1,118.00 for each date of service does not cover our costs to perform this injection/procedure...Texas Labor Code 413.011 (d)...We feel our facility fees are “fair and reasonable” as outlined in the Texas Labor Code... The total charges are as individual as the patients...The second criteria of the Texas Labor Code...we provide convenient, safe, individualized and cost effective outpatient surgery, diagnostic and therapeutic procedures... We feel that Hartford has unfairly reduced our bill when other workers’ compensation carriers have established that our charges are fair and reasonable...”

PART IV: RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

“No fee / MAR for ASC / outpatient services. Carrier reimbursed at fair and reasonable ...”

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

This dispute relates to services provided in an Ambulatory Surgical Center that are not covered under a fee guideline for this date of service. Accordingly, the reimbursement determined through this dispute resolution process must reflect a fair and reasonable rate as directed by Commission Rule 134.1. This case involves a factual dispute about what is a fair and reasonable reimbursement for the services provided.

After reviewing the documentation provided by both parties, it appears that neither the requestor nor the respondent provided convincing documentation that sufficiently discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that their purported amount is a fair and reasonable reimbursement (Rule 133.307). The failure to provide persuasive information that supports their proposed amounts makes rendering a decision difficult. After reviewing the services, the charges, and both parties’ positions, it is determined that no other payment is due.

During the rule development process for facility guidelines, the Commission had contracted with Ingenix, a professional firm specializing in actuarial and health care information services, in order to secure data and information on reimbursement ranges for these types of services. The results of this analysis resulted in a recommended range for reimbursement for workers’ compensation services

provided in these facilities. In addition, we received information from both ASCs and insurance carriers in the recent rule revision process. While not controlling, we considered this information in order to find data related to commercial market payments for these services. This information provides a very good benchmark for determining the "fair and reasonable" reimbursement amount for the services in dispute.

To determine the amount due for this particular dispute, staff compared the procedures in this case to the amounts that would be within the reimbursement range recommended by the Ingenix study (from 213.3% - 290% of Medicare for year 2004). Staff considered the other information submitted by the parties and the issues related to the specific procedures performed in this dispute. Based on this review, the original reimbursement on these services is within the middle area of the Ingenix range. According to CMS ASC guidelines, lab fees and diagnostic services are included in the facility fees and not separately payable. The decision for no additional reimbursement was then presented to a staff team with health care provider billing and insurance adjusting experience. This team considered the decision and discussed the facts of the individual case.

Based on the facts of this situation, the parties' positions, the Ingenix range for applicable procedures, and the consensus of other experienced staff members in Medical Review, 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.

Findings and Decision by:

8 / 24 / 05

Authorized Signature

Typed Name

Date of Decision

PART VII: YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

If you are unhappy with all or part of this decision, you have the right to appeal the decision. Those who wish to appeal decisions that were issued during the month of August 2005, should be aware of changes to the appeals process which take effect September 1, 2005.

House Bill 7, recently enacted by the 79th Texas Legislature, provides that an appeal of a medical dispute resolution order that is not pending for a hearing at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) on or before August 31, 2005 is not entitled to a SOAH hearing. This means that the usual 20-day window to appeal to SOAH, found in Commission Rule 148.3, will be shortened for some parties during this transition phase. If you wish to seek an appeal of this medical dispute resolution order to SOAH, you are encouraged to have your request for a hearing to the Commission as early as possible to allow sufficient time for the Commission to submit your request to SOAH for docketing. A request for a SOAH 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.

Beginning September 1, 2005, appeals of medical dispute resolution orders are procedurally made directly to a district court in Travis County [see Texas Labor Code, Sec. 413.031(k), as amended and effective Sept. 1, 2005). An appeal to District Court must be filed not later than 30 days after the date on which the decision that is the subject of the appeal is final and appealable.

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 in the Austin Representative's box.

Signature of Insurance Carrier: _____ Date: _____