

# MEDICAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

## PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

|  |  |
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| <b>Type of Requestor:</b> (x) HCP ( ) IE ( ) IC  | <b>Response Timely Filed?</b> ( ) Yes (x) No |
| Requestor's Name and Address<br>HCA Rio Grande Regional Hospital<br>3701 Kirby Drive Suite 1288<br>Houston, Texas 77098-3926 | MDR Tracking No.: M4-05-4858-01              |
|  | TWCC No.:                                    |
|  | Injured Employee's Name:                     |
| Respondent's Name and Address<br>VALIANT INSURANCE CO<br>PO BOX 13367<br>AUSTIN TX 787113367<br>Box 19                       | Date of Injury:                              |
|  | Employer's Name:                             |
|  | Insurance Carrier's No.: 900000657           |

## PART II: SUMMARY OF DISPUTE AND FINDINGS

| Dates of Service |          | CPT Code(s) or Description | Amount in Dispute | Amount Due |
|------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| From             | To       |                            |                   |            |
| 03-19-04         | 03-23-04 | Surgical Admission         | \$24,232.96       | \$0.00     |
|                  |          |                            |                   |            |
|                  |          |                            |                   |            |
|                  |          |                            |                   |            |
|                  |          |                            |                   |            |
|                  |          |                            |                   |            |

## PART III: REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Based upon review by the insurance carrier, Zurich Insurance Group ("Zurich"), and its audit department, alleges that the aforementioned claim has been properly paid. On the contrary, specifically, Rule 134.401(c)(6)(A)(i)(iii), once a bill has reached the minimum stop-loss threshold of \$40K, the entire admission will be paid using the stop-loss reimbursement factor ("SLRF") of 75%.

## PART IV: RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

No response was found in the case file.

## 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 documentation provided by the provider, primary procedure being decompressive laminectomy L4-L5 and L5-S1 bilaterally with discectomies and the patient discharged on the fourth postoperative day ambulating with help by PT and doing well, 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 total length of stay for this admission was four (4) days (consisting of 4 days for surgical). Accordingly, the standard per diem amount due for this admission is equal to \$4,472.00 (4 times \$1,118.00). In addition, the hospital is entitled to additional reimbursement for (implantables/MRIs/CAT Scans/pharmaceuticals) as follows:

An invoice from Lifelink in the amount of \$5,050.00 X 110% = \$5,555.00

The carrier has reimbursed the provider \$41,362.53.

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:

04-08-05

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 en 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: \_\_\_\_\_