

ADVISORY NO. 56

TOPIC: Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline Rule 134.400

The Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline has been adopted by the TWCC and became effective 9-1-92.

The Guideline applies when an injured worker covered by workers' compensation insurance is admitted to an acute care hospital for inpatient services. It does not apply for psychiatric, rehabilitation or outpatient services.

The Guideline is a per-diem based payment system. There are three per diem rate categories for reimbursement determined on admission. These are Medical at \$600; Surgical at \$1,100; and ICU/CCU at \$1,600. Each rate encompasses most services provided for that type admission, MRIs, CT scans and implantables are reimbursed in addition to the per diem amounts.

Since services are not reimbursed separately, the need for audit is reduced.

On Thursday, August 27, 1992, the Texas Hospital Association, the Dallas/Ft. Worth Hospital Council, Memorial Healthcare System of Houston and Henrick Medical Center of Abilene filed a lawsuit against TWCC seeking to set aside Rule 134.400, the Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline. On Friday, August 28, 1992, Travis County Judge Scott McCown denied the plaintiff's request for a temporary restraining order that would have banned TWCC from implementing the fee guideline as scheduled on September 1, 1992. Another hearing is scheduled for October 12, 1992.

The Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline was effective 9-1-92 and applies to changes for treatment of workers' compensation patients admitted to hospitals on or after that date. We are attaching a copy of the Fee Guideline.

Further copies of the new Rule 134.400 Guideline are available from TWCC, Publication, 4000 South IH35, Austin, Texas 78704-7491 or you may call (512) 440-3650. Cost is \$1.39 if mailed.

FLAHIVE, OGDEN & LATSON

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Other Guidelines available are:

Proposed Physical Medicine Treatment Guideline - Cost \$12.19. TWCC is accepting public comment presently. A Dental Fee Guideline is in draft form and work is in progress for treatment guidelines for spinal, chiropractic, upper extremity and mental health services.