

ADVISORY NO. 345
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TOPIC: PAYMENT OF IRO FEES

Upon notice of an IRO assignment, the carrier prepays the IRO fees if it is a preauthorization issue or if it is an employee “reimbursement” issue. Rule 133.308(q)(1)(A). For retrospective medical necessity disputes (the service has already been provided and the carrier has denied the bill on the grounds that the service was not necessary treatment), the healthcare provider prepays the IRO fee. Rule 133.308(q)(B).

If the provider is a doctor or osteopath, the charge is \$650. For all other providers, the charge is \$460.

In the event that the IRO decision is favorable to the provider, the Commission will order the payment of the disputed bill, and will order the carrier to reimburse the provider. The carrier is liable for the payment “upon receipt of the order”. Rule 133.308(q)(9). We recommend that the fee be paid with twenty days of receipt of the adverse decision and order whether or not the case is timely appealed to SOAH.

Providers are beginning to refer these cases to TWCC Compliance & Practices Division. TWCC will issue administrative violations. Remember that on all cases in which the provider prevails before the IRO, the IRO fee must be reimbursed by the carrier whether or not the case is timely appealed.