

American Arbitration Association  
New York No-Fault Arbitration Tribunal

In the Matter of the Arbitration between:

Beach Medical Rehabilitation, PC  
(Applicant)

- and -

Allstate Fire & Casualty Insurance Company  
(Respondent)

AAA Case No. 17-23-1326-5168

Applicant's File No. DK23-414299

Insurer's Claim File No. 712387141

NAIC No. 29688

### ARBITRATION AWARD

I, Anne Malone, the undersigned arbitrator, designated by the American Arbitration Association pursuant to the Rules for New York State No-Fault Arbitration, adopted pursuant to regulations promulgated by the Superintendent of Insurance, having been duly sworn, and having heard the proofs and allegations of the parties make the following **AWARD**:

Injured Person(s) hereinafter referred to as: EIP

1. Hearing(s) held on 01/22/2025  
Declared closed by the arbitrator on 01/22/2025

Henry Guindi, Esq. from Korsunskiy Legal Group, P.C. participated virtually for the Applicant

Adva White, Esq. from Law Offices of John Trop participated virtually for the Respondent

2. The amount claimed in the Arbitration Request, **\$417.00**, was NOT AMENDED at the oral hearing.  
Stipulations WERE NOT made by the parties regarding the issues to be determined.
3. Summary of Issues in Dispute

The 40 year old EIP reported involvement in a motor vehicle accident on May 2, 2023; claimed related injury and underwent trigger point injection with ultrasound, and office visit, outcome assessment testing and supplies and materials provided by the applicant on August 15, 2023.

The applicant submitted a claim for these medical services, partial payment of which was timely made by the respondent based upon its determination of the correct reimbursable amount pursuant to the New York Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule.

**The issue to be determined at the hearing is whether the respondent established its fee schedule defense.**

#### 4. Findings, Conclusions, and Basis Therefor

This hearing was held on Zoom and the decision is based upon the documents reviewed in the Modria File as well as the arguments made by counsel and/or representative at the arbitration hearing. Only the arguments presented at the hearing are preserved in this decision; all other arguments not presented at the hearing are considered waived.

To prevail in its fee schedule defense, the respondent must demonstrate by competent evidentiary proof that the applicant's claims are in excess of the appropriate fee schedule. If the respondent fails to do so, its defense of noncompliance with the New York Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule cannot be sustained. See Continental Medical, P.C. v Travelers Indemnity Co., 11 Misc. 3d 145A (App. Term 1<sup>st</sup> Dept. 2006.)

An insurer fails to raise a triable issue of fact with respect to a defense that the fees charged were not in conformity with the Workers' Compensation fee schedule when it does not specify the actual reimbursement rates which formed the basis for its determination that the claimant billed in excess of the maximum amount permitted. See St. Vincent Medical Services, P.C. v. GEICO Ins. Co., 29 Misc.3d 141(A), 907 N.Y.S.2d 441 (App. Term 2d, Dec. 8, 2010.)

The applicant billed a total of \$813.33 for the services at issue, for which the respondent made partial payment of \$396.33 pursuant to the appropriate fee schedule, leaving a balance of 417.00.

The services at issue were provided by a Nurse Practitioner (NP) and therefore the services should have been billed at 80% of the physician rate. The payment made by the respondent allowed for 80% of the charges for the office visit, injection and ultrasonic guidance.

The applicant billed \$25.00 for supplies and materials billed under CPT code 99070, which is listed in the Medicine section of the fee schedule and states: "[s]upplies and materials (except spectacles) provided by the physician or other qualified health care professional over and above those usually included with the office visit or other services rendered (list drugs, trays, supplies or materials provided)."

Based on a plain reading of the applicable fee schedule, the respondent was required to list the specific supplies and materials that are over and above those usually included....

The applicant also billed \$292.92 for prolonged evaluation and management under CPT code 99354. According to the New York Workers' Compensation Surgery Fee Schedule, Ground Rules 2 and 6 immediate pre and post operative care is included in the value for the surgical procedure.

Based on the foregoing, the respondent has established its fee schedule defense.

**Accordingly, the claim is dismissed with prejudice.**

Any further issues submitted in the record are held to be moot and/or waived insofar as they were not raised at the time of this hearing. This decision is in full disposition of all claims for no-fault benefits presently before this Arbitrator.

5. Optional imposition of administrative costs on Applicant.  
Applicable for arbitration requests filed on and after March 1, 2002.

I do NOT impose the administrative costs of arbitration to the applicant, in the amount established for the current calendar year by the Designated Organization.

6. **I find as follows with regard to the policy issues before me:**

- The policy was not in force on the date of the accident
- The applicant was excluded under policy conditions or exclusions
- The applicant violated policy conditions, resulting in exclusion from coverage
- The applicant was not an "eligible injured person"
- The conditions for MVAIC eligibility were not met
- The injured person was not a "qualified person" (under the MVAIC)
- The applicant's injuries didn't arise out of the "use or operation" of a motor vehicle
- The respondent is not subject to the jurisdiction of the New York No-Fault arbitration forum

Accordingly, the claim is DENIED in its entirety

This award is in full settlement of all no-fault benefit claims submitted to this arbitrator.

State of CT  
SS :  
County of Fairfield

I, Anne Malone, do hereby affirm upon my oath as arbitrator that I am the individual described in and who executed this instrument, which is my award.

01/23/2025  
(Dated)

Anne Malone

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

*This award is payable within 30 calendar days of the date of transmittal of award to parties.*

*This award is final and binding unless modified or vacated by a master arbitrator. Insurance Department Regulation No. 68 (11 NYCRR 65-4.10) contains time limits and grounds upon which this award may be appealed to a master arbitrator. An appeal to a master arbitrator must be made within 21 days after the mailing of this award. All insurers have copies of the regulation. Applicants may obtain a copy from the Insurance Department.*

**ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE**

**Document Name:** Final Award Form  
**Unique Modria Document ID:**  
127509b107cc75caa0781be127f84128

**Electronically Signed**

Your name: Anne Malone  
Signed on: 01/23/2025