American Arbitration Association
New York No-Fault Arbitration Tribunal

In the Matter of the Arbitration between:

M & R Express Medical Supply Inc. (Applicant)	AAA Case No.	17-25-1430-5677
	Applicant's File No.	LIP-52514
- and -	Insurer's Claim File No.	0807355011
	NAIC No.	29688
Allstate Fire & Casualty Insurance Company (Respondent)		

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 11/04/2026
   Declared closed by the arbitrator on 11/04/2026

   Usman Nawaz, Esq. from Law Offices of Ilya E Parnas P.C. participated virtually for the Applicant

   Morenike Erinkitola, Esq. from Law Offices Of Richard Schoenberg participated virtually for the Respondent

2. The amount claimed in the Arbitration Request, **$3,375.00**, 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 25 year old EIP reported involvement in a motor vehicle accident on September 30, 2025; claimed related injury and received a SAM provided by the applicant on October 10, 2025.

   The applicant submitted a claim for this durable medical equipment, payment of which was initially denied based on a peer review by Dr. Merson and was subsequently denied due to exhaustion of benefits.

   The issues to be determined at the hearing are:

Whether the respondent established that the no-fault benefits under the policy were exhausted.

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.

Exhaustion of Benefits

In support of its contention that benefits under the policy at issue were exhausted at the time of the denial the respondent submitted a copy of the declaration page of the policy at issue, a copy of the payment ledger and proof of payment for medical payments and lost wages.

When an insurer has paid the full monetary limits set forth in the policy, its duties under the contract of insurance cease. Countrywide Ins. Co. v. Swah, 272 A.D.2d 245 (1st Dept. 2000.) A defense of no coverage due to the exhaustion of No- Fault policy limits may be asserted by an insurer despite its failure to issue an NF-10 denial of claim form within the requisite 30 day period. New York & Presbyterian Hosp. v. Allstate Ins. Co., 12 A.D.3d 579 (2d Dept. 2004.)

An arbitrator's award directing payment in excess of the limits of an insurance policy exceeds the arbitrator's power and constitutes grounds for vacatur of the award. Matter of Brijmohan v. State Farm Ins. Co., 92 N.Y.2d 821 (1998.)

Moreover, pursuant to NY Insurance Law §5102(b)(3) "amounts deductible under the applicable insurance policy" are a part of the reimbursed amount."

At the hearing, applicant also sought to be compensated for what appears to be available through the Med Pay portion of the subject policy.

However, this forum is only for resolution of disputes under No Fault's mandatory coverage required under New York Insurance Law for first party benefits. See Insurance Law Section 5106(b.) This coverage is separate and apart from PIP coverage.

Therefore, although the Dec Page for the subject policy appears to provide some coverage for medical payments, I lack jurisdiction to address the EIP's entitlement for this coverage and am not authorized to award it.

The applicant also argued that the benefits in excess of the policy limits be permitted pursuant to Alleviation Medical Services, PC v Allstate Ins. Co., 2017 NY Slip Op 27097 (App. Term 2d Dept. 2017.)

However, Acuhealth Acupuncture, P.C. a/a/o Lancy Estremera v New York City Transit Authority, 36 N.Y.S.3d 406 (Sup. Ct. Kings County, 2016) which relied upon Merrick Union Free School Dist. v. Merrick Faculty Ass'n., Inc., 87 A.D.3d 536, 928 N.Y.S.2d 60 (2d Dept. 2011) held that "it is well settled that an arbitration award may be vacated upon the ground that the arbitrator exceeded his or her authority by making an award in excess of the limits fixed by the insurance policy" and that "[r]elief granted by an Arbitrator cannot exceed a specifically enumerated limitation on his or her power." The Acuhealth court also relied upon Brijmohan, *supra.*

There are arbitration awards which favor the arguments of both parties regarding this issue. Relying upon the decisions of the Court of Appeals and the First and Second Departments, I find that I do not have the authority to make an award in excess of the no-fault limit, which has been exhausted in this case.

The respondent has preserved its defense in a timely and proper denial of claim based on the exhaustion of benefits. The applicant has failed to rebut the assertion that the benefits were exhausted.

Based on the foregoing, the respondent has established its defense of exhaustion of benefits.

Under these circumstances, the issue of medical necessity is moot.

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.

11/04/2026
(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:
6740d632ec3639def4a83b3acf3d7c25

Electronically Signed

Your name: Anne Malone
Signed on: 11/04/2026