

## N E W S L I N E

**Newsline No.:** 2017-72

**Date:** August 7, 2017

### **DWC Issues Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Evidence-Based Updates to the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule Regulations**

The Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has issued a notice of public hearing on September 6, 2017 for proposed evidence-based updates to the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) regulations by Administrative Director order pursuant to Labor Code section 5307.27(a).

These proposed evidence-based updates to the MTUS incorporate by reference the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine's (ACOEM's) most recent treatment guidelines to the General Approaches, Clinical Topics, and Special Topics sections of the MTUS. As a direct result of these evidence-based updates, a website address is added to obtain the updated ACOEM treatment guidelines and introductions for the General Approaches, Clinical Topics, and Special Topics sections were also revised to match the updated guidelines contents.

Below is a list of the most recent ACOEM guidelines that will be incorporated by reference into the MTUS:

- Initial Approaches to Treatment Guideline (ACOEM June 30, 2017)
- Cervical and Thoracic Spine Disorders Guideline (ACOEM May 27, 2016)
- Shoulder Disorders Guideline (ACOEM August 1, 2016)
- Elbow Disorders Guideline (ACOEM 2013)
- Hand, Wrist, and Forearm Disorders Guideline (ACOEM June 30, 2016)
- Low Back Disorders Guideline (ACOEM February 24, 2016)
- Knee Disorders Guideline (ACOEM October 28, 2015)
- Ankle and Foot Disorders Guideline (ACOEM September 2015)
- Eye Disorders Guideline (ACOEM April 1, 2017)
- Hip and Groin Guideline (ACOEM May 1, 2011)
- Occupational/Work-Related Asthma Medical Treatment Guideline (ACOEM January 4, 2016)
- Occupational Interstitial Lung Disease Guideline (ACOEM January 4, 2016)
- Chronic Pain Guideline (ACOEM May 15, 2017)

- Opioids Guideline (ACOEM April 20, 2017)

The public hearing is scheduled for September 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium of the Elihu Harris Building, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, California. Members of the public may [review and comment on the proposed evidence-based updates to the MTUS](#) until 5 p.m. on September 6, 2017.

These proposed evidence-based updates to the MTUS regulations are exempt from Labor Code sections 5307.3 and 5307.4 and the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act. However, DWC is required to have a 30-day public comment period, hold a public hearing, respond to all the comments received during the public comment period, and publish the order online.

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The [California Department of Industrial Relations](#), established in 1927, protects and improves the health, safety, and economic well-being of over 18 million wage earners, and helps their employers comply with state labor laws. DIR is housed within the [Labor & Workforce Development Agency](#). For general inquiries, contact DIR's Communications Call Center at 844-LABOR-DIR (844-522-6734) for help in locating the appropriate [division or program](#) in our department.