

Division of Workers' Compensation Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

October 18, 2023
12:30pm to 2:30pm



State of California
Department of
Industrial Relations



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Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**

George Parisotto, Administrative Director, DWC

- **Approval of Minutes from the April 19, 2023 Meeting**

Dr. Raymond Meister, Executive Medical Director, DWC

- **MTUS Drug List v11**

Dr. Raymond Meister, Executive Medical Director, DWC

- **Discussion:**

- Opiate Prescribing – *Dr. Raymond Meister, Executive Medical Director, DWC*
- MTUS Listings – Categories – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D, DWC Consultant*

- **Additional Public Comments**

- **Review of Committee Recommendations**

- **Adjourn**

Welcome and Introductions

George Parisotto

Administrative Director, DWC

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Raymond Meister

Executive Medical Director, DWC

MTUS Drug List v11

Dr. Raymond Meister

Executive Medical Director, DWC

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR PAIN

Dr. Raymond Meister
Executive Medical Director, DWC



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GUIDELINES FOR PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR PAIN

- Issued by the **Medical Board of California** in July 2023
- Updates the 2014 guidelines previously issued by the Board
- Provides guidance for patients covered by workers' compensation (see next slide)
- Available at:

<https://www.mbc.ca.gov/Download/Publications/pain-guidelines.pdf>

ACOEM Opioids Clinical Practice Guideline currently undergoing comprehensive revision – expected to be available late 2023

From the Medical Board:

Patients Covered by Workers Compensation

The standard of care for prescribing opioids and managing patients being treated for chronic pain remains the same for all patients, regardless of whether their treatment is being provided as a result of a work-related injury. This population of patients presents its own unique circumstances as medical treatment decisions must be reviewed and approved for medical necessity through utilization review. Utilization review programs use medical treatment guidelines developed by the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) and adopted in regulation within the California Labor Code to determine what is reasonable and necessary medical care for an injured worker. The treatment guidelines address the use of opioids and treatment for chronic pain but are not necessarily mandatory. The [Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule \(MTUS\)](#) is available online to healthcare providers treating, evaluating, or performing utilization review in the California workers' compensation system. Physicians providing care to California injured workers are recommended to be familiar with these guidelines and those of the MTUS as well as ACOEM when treating these patients.

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

MTUS Listings – Categories

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD
DWC Consultant



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Adding Categories

- Ongoing project to develop additional therapeutic categories to aid practitioner drug selection
- MD Guidelines currently sets drug categories based on the Medi-Span GPI (Generic Product Identifiers) Drug Group
- Staff looked to see if adding the Drug Class would provide additional delineation for practitioners, with mixed results
- The Drug Class for some drugs would not provide additional delineation. For example, the drug pregabalin:
 - Drug Group (current MTUS) – Anticonvulsants
 - Drug Class (potential addition) – Anticonvulsants, Misc.

GPI Example

Subset	Digits	Description	Example
39	2	Drug Group	ANTIHYPERLIPIDEMICS
39-40	4	Drug Class	HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors
39-40-00	6	Drug Subclass	HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors
39-40-00-10	8	Drug Base Name	Atorvastatin
39-40-00-10-10	10	Drug Name/Drug Name	Atorvastatin Calcium
39-40-00-10-10-03	12	Drug Name and Dosage Form	Atorvastatin Calcium Tablet
39-40-00-10-10-03-10	14	Full GPI with Drug Strength	Atorvastatin Calcium Tablet 10MG

Unique MTUS Sub-Class

- Use of the Drug Class from the GPI may not be possible given the proprietary nature of the information
- Additionally, there would be a need to deviate from the Drug Class for many drugs to be more informative
- DWC staff decided to look at publicly available drug classifications to see if one or more might be useful to create the MTUS Sub-Class
- Two primary sources:
 - National Library of Medicine (NLM) RxClass
 - United States Pharmacopeia (USP)

NLM RxClass

- Staff captured classifications from four different lists:
 - Established Pharmacologic Classes (EPC)
 - MeSH Pharmacologic Action (MESHPA)
 - Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC)
 - Veterans Administration Classes (VA)
- These four lists have classifications that appear to be more commonly used in formulary listings
- Under each there can be multiple classes in which a drug ingredient appears

USP Drug Classification (USP DC)

- According to USP:
 - “The USP DC is an independent drug classification system developed in response to stakeholder input that it would be helpful to have a classification system beyond the Medicare Model Guidelines (MMG), to assist with formulary support outside of Medicare Part D”
- The 2023 version of the USP DC was used for the lists
- USP DC 2024 has been published but is not yet finalized

Category Spreadsheets

- Spreadsheets have been developed to aid in the comparison of the various categories
- Some categorization lists have multiple entries due to a drug appearing in combination with other drugs or its use for various treatment indications
- Listing of drug ingredients in multiple classes or in classes that do not provide more information is the reason a MTUS Sub-Class is being recommended.
- The spreadsheets list:
 - Drug Ingredient
 - Route of Administration
 - Category used in the MD Guidelines (current MTUS listing) and proposed MTUS Sub-Class
 - Classifications from EPC, MeSHPA, ATC, VA and USP

List Example

- Due to the size of the list (over 400 entries) it was decided to split the list and review each in two separate P&T meetings.

Drug Ingredient	Route of Administration	MD Guidelines Class	New MTUS Sub-Class	EPC
guanfacine hcl er	Oral	ADHD / Anti-narcolepsy / Anti-Obesity / Anorexiant	Alpha-adrenergic Agonists	Central alpha-2 adrenergic agonist
methylphenidate hcl	Oral	ADHD / Anti-narcolepsy / Anti-Obesity / Anorexiant		Central nervous system stimulant
modafinil	Oral	ADHD / Anti-narcolepsy / Anti-Obesity / Anorexiant		Sympathomimetic-like agent

MESHPA	ATC	VA	USP DC Class
Adrenergic alpha-2 receptor agonists ; Antihypertensive agents		Antihypertensives,other ; Syathomimetics (adrenergics)	Alpha-adrenergic Agonists
Central nervous system stimulants ; Dopamine uptake inhibitors	Centrally acting sympathomimetics	Amphetamine like stimulants	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Agents, Non-amphetamines
Central nervous system stimulants ; Cytochrome P-450 CYP3A Inducers ; Wakefulness promoting agents	Centrally acting sympathomimetics	CNS stimulants, other	Wakefulness Promoting Agents

Committee Discussion

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Review of Recommendations

Adjournment