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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

PUBLIC HEARING

Friday, February 27, 2026
(Meeting held via Zoom)

TKO
Meeting Manager

Nicole Richardson
DWC Counsel

DR. RAYMOND MEISTER
DWC Medical Director

MAUREEN GRAY
Regulations Coordinator

Reported by: Pamela Kristjansson
CSR No. 8809

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I N D E X

(No Speakers)

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1 (Time Noted: 10:01 a.m.)

2 **MR. BIEDLER:** We are now going on the record.

3 Good morning, everyone. My name is Daniel Biedler.
4 I'm an attorney for the Division of Workers' Compensation.
5 Before we begin today's public hearing, I want to inform
6 everyone that this hearing is being recorded.

7 This is our noticed conference call and Zoom public
8 hearing for the Evidence Based Adoption and Update to the
9 Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule. The division is
10 proposing to make updates to the Medical Treatment Utilization
11 Schedule as contained in title 8 California Code of Regulations
12 sections 9792.22, 9792.23.9, and 9792.42.2.

13 I'd like to take a moment to introduce DWC staff
14 members on the line. Nicole Richardson, the acting DWC
15 Administrative Director, Dr. Ray Meister, the DWC Medical
16 Director, and Maureen Gray, the division's Regulations
17 Coordinator. We have two hearing reporters on the call today
18 to assist with producing the record of the hearing.

19 The purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on
20 the proposed amendments to the Initial Approaches to Treatment,
21 Eye Disorders, and Chronic Pain guidelines, as set forth in
22 regulation sections 9792.22, 9792.23.9, and 9792.42.2. We
23 welcome any comments that you have.

24 Please note, we will not question, respond to, or
25 discuss anyone's comments, although we may ask for

1 clarification or ask you to elaborate further on any points
2 that you are presenting. All of your comments, both given
3 verbally here today and both submitted in writing, will be
4 considered in determining what revisions, if any, we make to
5 the proposed regulations.

6 If you would like to speak during this hearing, use
7 the "raise your hand" function or send a chat in the Zoom app
8 to "Hosts & Panelists" requesting to speak. If you are calling
9 in for this meeting and would like to speak, please press *9
10 and when your phone number is announced you will press *6 to
11 unmute yourself. You will be called on to speak in the order
12 in which we receive your request.

13 If for some reason you are not able to use the "raise
14 your hand" feature or send a chat, please email
15 DWCRules@dir.ca.gov. In the email, please include your full
16 name, screen name, phone number, and any affiliation. We will
17 call on you in the order we receive your request. Please also
18 include the words "Request to Speak" in the subject line of
19 your email.

20 We are taking attendance; we will be using the
21 information you provided when you logged into this meeting;
22 however, if you've called in, we only have your phone number.
23 Please send an email to Maureen Gray, DWC's Regulations
24 Coordinator at DWCRules@dir.ca.gov to provide your full name,
25 the organization you're affiliated with, if any, and contact

1 information in case we need to provide you with any updates.

2 To help the hearing reporters and to aid the taking of
3 attendance, we ask that you make sure your Zoom screen name
4 properly reflects your actual first and last name. A screen
5 name will help us identify you for transcript purposes.

6 Please restrict the subject of your comments to the
7 proposed regulations. We ask that you limit your comments to
8 three minutes. You will receive a message asking you to unmute
9 yourself prior to your name being called. You must click on
10 the unmute message in order to speak. Please wait to speak
11 until you are called upon. Your time will begin after you are
12 unmuted and you are called upon.

13 You will be able to see a timer reflecting your
14 remaining speaking time. The time will change color from green
15 to yellow to red as your time left to speak winds down. You
16 will be muted after you have spoken for three minutes and the
17 next person will be called.

18 We will call the names of those who have indicated
19 they wish to speak today in the order received and we apologize
20 in advance if we mispronounce anyone's name. For the record
21 please begin by stating your name and any affiliation. All
22 oral comments given today will be taken down by the hearing
23 reporter.

24 When everyone on the list has had a chance to make
25 their public comment, we will check to see if anyone new has

1 joined and wishes to speak or if anyone else has additional
2 comments. This hearing will continue for as long as there are
3 people on the line who wish to comment on the proposed
4 regulations, but it will close no later than five o'clock this
5 afternoon. If the hearing continues into the lunch hour, we
6 will take at least a one-hour break. If there is time at the
7 end of the succession of speakers, anyone who would like to
8 speak again will receive a chance to make additional comments.
9 The additional comments will also be limited to three minutes.

10 All written comments can be submitted by fax at the
11 following number (510)286-0657 or to the following email
12 address: DWCRules@dir.ca.gov. Written comments submitted by
13 fax or by email will be accepted until midnight tonight.

14 For those who do not wish to speak today, but want to
15 be notified of any subsequent changes or of the final adoption
16 of the Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule, please provide
17 your complete name and email address to DWCRules@dir.ca.gov.
18 Any notice of changes and the final notice of amendment to the
19 Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule will be sent to everyone
20 who requests that information.

21 With that, do we have anyone who would like to speak?

22 **MEETING MANAGER:** At this time no hands are raised. We
23 have no requests for comment by hands raised or chat messages
24 at this time.

25 **MR. BIEDLER:** Thank you. Well, we'll give a few moments

1 for anybody who might like to indicate by email or otherwise.
2 Give it about a minute more.

3 **MEETING MANAGER:** We do have call-in attendees today by
4 telephone and your instructions did indicate how to raise a
5 hand by telephone which is pressing * and 9 on the telephone.
6 So for call-in users by telephone would like to make a comment,
7 pressing *9 will allow us to be alerted that you would like to
8 make a comment.

9 **MR. BIEDLER:** Thank you, Mr. Eichler.

10 **MEETING MANAGER:** Once again to our attendees today, this
11 is your opportunity to comment by raising your hand using the
12 Zoom feature at the bottom of your screen. There is an icon,
13 and that is an icon of a hand. If you click on that you can
14 "raise your hand" which will alert us if you'd like to make a
15 comment. If you're calling in by telephone, pressing *9 does
16 the same thing. It raises your hand and we'll be happy to call
17 on you to be able to make your comment. This is the time for
18 your comments.

19 **MR. BIEDLER:** Well, if we don't have anybody wishing to
20 speak at this time, we're going to be happy to receive any
21 comments by fax or email at DWCRules@dir.ca.gov if you wish by
22 midnight tonight, please. The time is now 10:10 a.m., and this
23 public hearing is now closed.

24 (The proceedings adjourned at 10:10 a.m.)

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R E P O R T E R ' S C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Pamela Kristjansson, Official Hearing Reporter for the State of California, Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Workers' Compensation, do hereby certify that the foregoing matter is a full, true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in shorthand on the date and in the matter described on the first page thereof.

Pamela Kristjansson

Pamela Kristjansson
Official Hearing Reporter
of the State of California,
Workers' Compensation Appeals Board

Dated: March 10, 2026

