

Division of Workers' Compensation Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

October 15, 2025
12:30pm to 2:30pm



State of California
Gavin Newsom
Governor

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**
George Parisotto, Administrative Director, DWC
- **Approval of July 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
Dr. Raymond Meister, Executive Medical Director, DWC
- **Discussion:**
 - Updated RxCUI Listings – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - Pharmacy Drug Utilization – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - MTUS Product Status – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
- **Additional Public Comments**
- **Review of Committee Recommendations**
- **Adjourn**

Welcome and Introductions

George Parisotto

Administrative Director, DWC

Approval of July 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Raymond Meister
Executive Medical Director, DWC

Updated RxCUI Listings

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD
DWC Consultant

RxCUI MTUS v13 Changes

- Made changes reflected in the MTUS v13
- RxCUIs added for three new products
 - alpha lipoic acid = RxCUI1165524 for All Oral Dosage Forms and Strengths
 - belsomra = RxCUI 1547101 for All Oral Dosage Forms and Strengths
 - mycophenolate mofetil = RxCUI 1157871 for All Oral Dosage Forms and Strengths
- Updated interchangeable labeling
 - IDACIO and YUSIMRY are NOT interchangeable with HUMIRA
 - All other adalimumab biosimilars are interchangeable with HUMIRA
- No RxCUI consolidations for existing products

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

Pharmacy Drug Utilization

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD
DWC Consultant



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Pharmacy Utilization Data Reviewed

- Data reviewed is for calendar 2024 (Jan 1 thru Dec 31, 2024)
- Top 5 therapeutic categories based on Total Paid

Rank by Total Paid	THERAPEUTIC CATEGORIES	Bill Lines	Total Paid
2	NSAIDS	186,552	\$6,718,137.68
4	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS	5,895	\$4,072,292.84

- Fairly consistent with previous reviews of drug utilization data
 - The review separated out Direct Factor XA Inhibitors from other coagulants as they account for almost 90% of expenditures on anticoagulants

Pharmacy Utilization Data Reviewed

- Top 5 therapeutic categories based on Claim lines

Rank by Total Claims	THERAPEUTIC CATEGORIES	Bill Lines	Total Paid
2	ANTICONVULSANTS	68,305.00	\$4,538,123.03
4	OPIOID ANALGESICS AND NON-SALICYLATE ANALGESICS	44,443.00	\$1,084,546.93

- Again, very consistent with previous reviews

Four Categories Chosen for Closer Review

- Committee has extensively discussed NSAIDs and topical product listed on the top 5 lists
- Based on the top 9 lists (with some overlap) the following therapeutic categories were chosen for closer review
 - Anticonvulsants – top 5 in both paid amount and claim volume
 - Migraine Products – top 5 in amount paid, but only number 26 in claims
 - Muscle Relaxants – top 5 in claims, but number 19 in amount paid
 - Proton Pump Inhibitors – number 8 in both amount paid and claims

ANTICONVULSANTS

- Only carbamazepine is EXEMPT on the MTUS Drug List
- All other products in the utilization data are either NON-EXEMPT or are NOT LISTED on the MTUS Drug List
- pregabalin tops the list in amount paid, accounting for approximately 55% of the amount paid
- gabapentin accounts for approximately 25% of the amount paid
- carbamazepine (the only exempt product) accounted for 0.25% of the amount paid

Anticonvulsant Drug Top 10

Generic Name	Bill Lines	Total Paid	EXEMPT STATUS	THERAPEUTIC CATEGORY
PREGABALIN Total	14,455	\$2,491,232.00	NON-EXEMPT	ANTICONVULSANTS
GABAPENTIN Total	48,517	\$1,129,380.43	NON-EXEMPT	ANTICONVULSANTS
LEVETIRACETAM Total	854	\$239,966.59	NON-EXEMPT	ANTICONVULSANTS
LACOSAMIDE Total	314	\$195,725.44	NOT LISTED	ANTICONVULSANTS
TOPIRAMATE Total	2,474	\$152,758.81	NON-EXEMPT	ANTICONVULSANTS
BRIVARACETAM Total	53	\$103,673.87	NOT LISTED	ANTICONVULSANTS
LAMOTRIGINE Total	604	\$97,949.10	NON-EXEMPT	ANTICONVULSANTS
OXCARBAZEPINE Total	199	\$35,441.45	NON-EXEMPT	ANTICONVULSANTS
DIVALPROEX SODIUM Total	478	\$24,720.15	NON-EXEMPT	ANTICONVULSANTS
PERAMPANEL Total	11	\$16,834.75	NOT LISTED	ANTICONVULSANTS

Migraine Products

- The drug, rimegepant sulfate accounts for the highest amount paid accounting for approximately 45% of total paid on migraine products
- Though there are 9 products listed on the MTUS as exempt, 7 of the top 10 drugs by amount paid are not listed on the MTUS
- The highest listed product sumatriptan succinate (EXEMPT) accounts for approximately 2.6% of the total paid for migraine products

Migraine Drugs Top 10

Generic Name	Bill Lines	Total Paid	EXEMPT STATUS	THERAPEUTIC CATEGORY
RIMEGEPANT SULFATE Total	1,057	\$1,831,791.08	NOT LISTED	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS
UBROGEPANT Total	427	\$624,229.44	NOT LISTED	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS
ATOGEPANT Total	451	\$515,347.07	NOT LISTED	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS
ERENUMAB-AOOE Total	327	\$263,832.67	NOT LISTED	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS
FREMANEZUMAB-VFRM Total	254	\$230,258.35	NOT LISTED	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS
GALCANEZUMAB-GNLM Total	284	\$211,881.55	NOT LISTED	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS
SUMATRIPTAN SUCCINATE Total	1,752	\$105,278.32	EXEMPT	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS
LASMIDITAN SUCCINATE Total	33	\$93,895.98	NOT LISTED	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS
RIZATRIPTAN BENZOATE Total	969	\$75,732.29	EXEMPT	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS
ELETRIPTAN HYDROBROMIDE Total	94	\$36,522.91	EXEMPT	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS

Muscle Relaxants

- Nine products were identified out of the utilization data in the category of muscle relaxants
- Total amount paid for the category is less than \$1 million
- cyclobenzaprine accounts for approximately 45% of the amount paid in the category
- All of the products are NON-EXEMPT which likely impacts the volume and expenditures for this category of drugs

Muscle Relaxants 9 products

Generic Name	Bill Lines	Total Paid	EXEMPT STATUS	THERAPEUTIC CATEGORY
CYCLOBENZAPRINE HCL Total	28,972	\$428,605.15	NON-EXEMPT	MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY AGENTS (MUSCLE RELAXANTS)
BACLOFEN Total	5,322	\$184,872.86	NON-EXEMPT	MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY AGENTS (MUSCLE RELAXANTS)
TIZANIDINE HCL Total	8,779	\$137,097.10	NON-EXEMPT	MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY AGENTS (MUSCLE RELAXANTS)
METHOCARBAMOL Total	6,169	\$75,447.78	NON-EXEMPT	MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY AGENTS (MUSCLE RELAXANTS)
METAXALONE Total	1,375	\$70,830.72	NON-EXEMPT	MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY AGENTS (MUSCLE RELAXANTS)
CHLORZOXAZONE Total	73	\$24,937.89	NON-EXEMPT	MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY AGENTS (MUSCLE RELAXANTS)
CARISOPRODOL Total	728	\$14,135.24	NON-EXEMPT	MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY AGENTS (MUSCLE RELAXANTS)
DANTROLENE SODIUM Total	96	\$8,768.36	NON-EXEMPT	MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY AGENTS (MUSCLE RELAXANTS)
ORPHENADRINE CITRATE Total	124	\$2,569.53	NON-EXEMPT	MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY AGENTS (MUSCLE RELAXANTS)

Ulcer Drugs – Proton Pump Inhibitors

- There were 8 products identified in the data as proton pump inhibitors
 - 6 of the products are on the MTUS Rug List as EXEMPT
 - 2 products are not listed on the MTUS Drug List
- esomeprazole magnesium has the largest share of amount paid at 36%
- The next four drugs have relatively equal share of the amount paid
 - omeprazole 17%
 - lansoprazole 17%
 - dexlansoprazole 12%
 - pantoprazole sodium 12%

Proton Pump Inhibitor 8 products

Generic Name	Bill Lines	Total Paid	EXEMPT STATUS	THERAPEUTIC CATEGORY
ESOMEPRAZOLE MAGNESIUM Total	8,077	\$886,835.41	EXEMPT	ULCER DRUGS (PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS)
OMEPRAZOLE Total	13,363	\$419,225.20	EXEMPT	ULCER DRUGS (PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS)
LANSOPRAZOLE Total	4,491	\$417,071.95	EXEMPT	ULCER DRUGS (PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS)
DEXLANSOPRAZOLE Total	987	\$303,867.77	EXEMPT	ULCER DRUGS (PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS)
PANTOPRAZOLE SODIUM Total	4,010	\$287,675.62	EXEMPT	ULCER DRUGS (PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS)
RABEPRAZOLE SODIUM Total	370	\$110,326.97	EXEMPT	ULCER DRUGS (PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS)
OMEPRAZOLE/SODIUM BICARBONATE Total	504	\$48,379.01	NOT LISTED	ULCER DRUGS (PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS)
OMEPRAZOLE MAGNESIUM Total	171	\$3,663.13	NOT LISTED	ULCER DRUGS (PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS)

MTUS Product Status

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD

DWC Consultant

Exempt/Non-Exempt

- Should the EXEMPT/NON-EXEMPT status of some products within the four categories be reassessed?
- Examples of non-exempt products that dominate their therapeutic category
 - pregabalin recommended for anxiety disorders, chronic pain and shoulder disorders with Moderate Evidence (B)
 - gabapentin recommend for chronic pain Moderate Evidence (B) and for peri-operative management of low back pain Strong Evidence (A)
- Does the committee have suggestions on some drugs they would like to see reassessed?

Unlisted Products

- There are several products that are not listed on the MTUS Drug List but have high utilization and/or amounts paid
- For example, migraine drug utilization is dominated by unlisted products
- What recommendations does the committee have to possibly address these products and their utilization?
 - What type of data or information would the committee like to see for this type of assessment?

Current Max Price Per Day

- Across the four categories reviewed, maximum current price per day was calculated
 - Based on the average quantity per day from utilization data
 - Current maximum allowed price for drugs within workers compensation (data from August 21, 2025)
- Among the exempt products, nothing stands out as aberrant
- High priced drugs appear to be the brand name products in multiple source situations (i.e. both brand and generic drugs available)
 - There is a generic first policy in workers compensation

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

Review of Recommendations

Adjournment