

Division of Workers' Compensation Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

April 15, 2026
12:30pm to 2:30pm



State of California
Gavin Newsom
Governor

Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**
Suzanne Honor-Vangerov, Legal Counsel, DWC
- **Physician and Pharmaceutical Fee Schedule Update**
Suzanne Honor-Vangerov, Legal Counsel, DWC
- **Approval of January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
Dr. Raymond Meister, Executive Medical Director, DWC
- **Discussion:**
 - MTUS Formulary Drug List v14 – *Dr. Meister*
 - Pregabalin and Gabapentin – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - Ibuprofen Price Outliers – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - Cyclobenzaprine and Tizanidine – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - Duloxetine – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - July Meeting Topics – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
- **Additional Public Comments**
- **Review of Committee Recommendations**
- **Adjourn**

Welcome and Introductions

Suzanne Honor-Vangerov
Legal Counsel, DWC

Physician and Pharmaceutical Fee Schedule Update

Suzanne Honor-Vangerov
Legal Counsel, DWC

Approval of January 21, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Raymond Meister
Executive Medical Director, DWC



MTUS Formulary Drug List v14

Traumatic Brain Injury Medications Update

Dr. Raymond Meister

Pregabalin and Gabapentin

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD
DWC Consultant



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Pregabalin Listing

- Two products listed.
- Both are non-exempt status.
 - Immediated release has 4-day Peri-Op and Special Fill allowances.
 - All dosage forms and strengths consolidated under 2 RxCUIs.

Drug Ingredient	Reference Brand Name	Exempt/Non-Exempt*	Special Fill	Peri-Op	Drug Class	Reference in ACOEM Guidelines	Route of Administration	Dosage Form	Strength	RxCUI
pregabalin	LYRICA	Non-Exempt	4 days	4 days	Anticonvulsants	(R) Anxiety Disorders (NR) Cervical and Thoracic Spine Disorders (R) Chronic Pain (NR) Hip and Groin Disorders (R, NR) Low Back Disorders (R, X) Shoulder	Oral	ALL ORAL DOSAGE FORMS	ALL STRENGTHS	1156764
pregabalin (once-daily)	LYRICA CR	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Anticonvulsants	(X) Anxiety Disorders (X) Chronic Pain (X) Hip and Groin Disorders	Oral	ALL ORAL DOSAGE FORMS	ALL STRENGTHS	1156764

ACOEEM Pregabalin Use – Acute Phase

- Anxiety Disorders
 - Generalized Anxiety Disorder
 - Panic Disorder
 - Phobic Disorder
 - Social Anxiety Disorder
- Low Back - Peri-Operative management of low back pain
 - Duration of use generally limited to 2 to 6 weeks post surgery.

ACOEEM References

- Anxiety Disorders
 - “There are multiple moderate quality placebo-controlled trials of pregabalin for treatment of GAD and all studies suggest efficacy. Pregabalin is not invasive, has low to moderate adverse effects, and has consistent evidence of efficacy for treatment of anxiety disorders; thus, it is moderately recommended for treatment of anxiety disorders.”
 - 400mg/day is effective and has less adverse effects compared with 600mg/day.
- Low Back
 - strongly recommended for peri-operative management of pain to reduce the need for opioids, particularly in patients with adverse effects from opioids.

Pregabalin Utilization

- Pharmacy Utilization of pregabalin and pregabalin er (including brand)
 - 14,514 claims with total of \$2,518,307.65 paid
 - Average paid per claim = \$173.51
 - Average paid per claim for immediate release = \$172.34
- Physician Utilization of pregabalin (no pregabalin er utilization)
 - 694 claims with total of \$184,584.85 paid
 - Average paid per claim = \$265.97
- LYRICA brand products account for
 - Pharmacy - 4.9% of claims and 22.1% of total paid
 - Physician – 0.4% of claims and 1% of total paid

Pregabalin Pricing – Pharmacy Utilization NDCs

- Generic pregabalin capsule prices range between 3-cents and 6-cents per capsule depending on strength
- LYRICA (brand) prices are approximately \$9.70 per capsule for all strengths.
- Generic pregabalin extended release prices are in the \$2 to \$5 per tablet range.
- LYRICA CR (brand) price is flat priced at \$17.39 per tablet across all strengths.

Pregabalin Pharmacy Utilization

Drug Ingredient	Strength	Bill Lines	% of Grand Total Bill Lines	Total Paid	% of Grand Total Paid
pregabalin	25MG	979	6.75%	\$137,834.40	5.5%
pregabalin	50MG	3,318	22.86%	\$556,940.81	22.1%
pregabalin	75MG	3,825	26.35%	\$655,997.84	26.0%
pregabalin	100MG	2,665	18.36%	\$497,398.77	19.8%
pregabalin	150MG	2,221	15.30%	\$382,054.06	15.2%
pregabalin	200MG	884	6.09%	\$187,420.99	7.4%
pregabalin	225MG	193	1.33%	\$28,363.29	1.1%
pregabalin	300MG	364	2.51%	\$42,682.02	1.7%
pregabalin (once-daily)	82.5MG	27	0.19%	\$14,174.96	0.6%
pregabalin (once-daily)	165MG	28	0.19%	\$9,636.07	0.4%
pregabalin (once-daily)	330MG	4	0.03%	\$3,264.62	0.1%
pregabalin	20MG/ML	6	0.04%	\$2,539.82	0.1%
	Grand Total	14,514		\$2,518,307.65	

Pregabalin Physician Utilization

Drug Ingredient	Strength	Bill Lines	% of Grand Total Bill Lines	Total Paid	% of Grand Total Paid
pregabalin	25MG	4	0.6%	\$527.62	0.3%
pregabalin	50MG	154	22.2%	\$31,372.10	17.0%
pregabalin	75MG	405	58.4%	\$139,174.59	75.4%
pregabalin	100MG	99	14.3%	\$8,742.59	4.7%
pregabalin	150MG	23	3.3%	\$4,500.52	2.4%
pregabalin	200MG	5	0.7%	\$122.91	0.1%
pregabalin	300MG	4	0.6%	\$144.52	0.1%
	Grand Total	694		\$184,584.85	

Gabapentin Listing

- Three products listed
- All three are non-exempt status
 - Immediate release has 4-day Peri-Op allowance
 - All dosage forms and strengths consolidated under 3 RxCUIs

Drug Ingredient	Reference Brand Name	Exempt/Non-Exempt*	Special Fill	Peri-Op	Drug Class	Reference in ACOEM Guidelines	Route of Administration	Dosage Form	Strength	RxCUI
gabapentin	NEURONTIN	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	4 days	Anticonvulsants	(NR) Anxiety Disorders (R, X, NR) Cervical and Thoracic Spine Disorders (R) Chronic Pain (R, NR) Hip and Groin Disorders (R, X, NR) Knee Disorders (R, NR) Low Back Disorders (X) Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (R, X, NR) Shoulder	Oral	ALL ORAL DOSAGE FORMS	ALL STRENGTHS	1156681
gabapentin (once-daily)	GRALISE	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Psychotherapeutic and Neurological Agents - Misc	(X) Anxiety Disorders (X) Chronic Pain (X) Hip and Groin Disorders (X) Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	Oral	ALL ORAL DOSAGE FORMS	ALL STRENGTHS	1156681
gabapentin enacarbil	HORIZANT	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Psychotherapeutic and Neurological Agents - Misc	(X) Anxiety Disorders (X) Chronic Pain (X) Hip and Groin Disorders (X) Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (R) Shoulder	Oral	ALL ORAL DOSAGE FORMS	ALL STRENGTHS	1101333

ACOEEM Gabapentin Use – Acute Phase

- Cervical and Thoracic Spine – Peri-operative management
- Hip and Groin Disorders – Hip osteoarthritis
- Knee
 - Knee Pain (peri-operative)
 - Peri-operative management of the knee – including knee arthropathy
- Low Back Disorders – Peri-operative management of low back pain
- Recommend use limited to a few days up to 6 weeks depending on condition being treated.

ACOEM References

- Randomized controlled trials suggest gabapentin spares opioid use in the peri- to post operative window.
- No quality studies that support use of anticonvulsant agents for hip OA patients. Recommendation is based on studies showing reduced use of opioids when gabapentin is administered perioperatively.
- Use in knee and low back disorders peri-operatively based on same studies showing reduced use of opioids.

Gabapentin Utilization

- Pharmacy Utilization of gabapentin, gabapentin once-daily and gabapentin enacarbil (including brand drugs)
 - 49,247 claims with total of \$1,616,565.34 paid
 - Average paid per claim = \$32.83
 - Average paid per claim for immediate release (caps and solution) = \$23.28
- Physician Utilization of gabapentin (no pregabalin er utilization)
 - 3,740 claims with total of \$36,981.01 paid
 - Average paid per claim = \$9.89
- Branded products account for
 - Pharmacy – 1.1% of claims and 31% of total paid
 - Physician – no branded products in utilization

Gabapentin Pricing – Pharmacy Utilization NDCs

- Immediate release
 - Generic gabapentin capsule and tablet prices range between 2-cents and 7-cents per tablet/capsule (depending on strength).
 - Neurontin (brand) prices range from \$3 to \$17 depending on strength
- Once Daily
 - Generic gabapentin once-daily prices are \$1.30 to \$1.50 per tablet.
 - Gralise price ranges from \$10 to \$15.
- Horizant (gabapentin enacarbil) price is approximately \$18 per tablet

Gabapentin Pharmacy Utilization

Drug Ingredient	Strength	Bill Lines	% of Grand Total Bill Lines	Total Paid	% of Grand Total Paid
gabapentin	100MG	8310	16.9%	\$88,158.57	5.5%
gabapentin	300MG	27618	56.1%	\$552,175.78	34.2%
gabapentin	400MG	1943	3.9%	\$46,153.82	2.9%
gabapentin	600MG	8266	16.8%	\$326,086.85	20.2%
gabapentin	800MG	2340	4.8%	\$113,335.52	7.0%
gabapentin	250/5ML	39	0.1%	\$3,048.60	0.2%
gabapentin	300/6ML	2	0.0%	\$421.29	0.0%
gabapentin (once-daily)	300MG	128	0.3%	\$44,790.16	2.8%
gabapentin (once-daily)	450MG	13	0.0%	\$8,389.31	0.5%
gabapentin (once-daily)	600MG	371	0.8%	\$237,459.49	14.7%
gabapentin (once-daily)	750MG	1	0.0%	\$1,438.08	0.1%
gabapentin (once-daily)	900MG	1	0.0%	\$484.19	0.0%
gabapentin enacarbil	300MG	38	0.1%	\$31,783.18	2.0%
gabapentin enacarbil	600MG	177	0.4%	\$162,840.50	10.1%
	Grand Total	49,247		\$1,616,565.34	

Gabapentin Physician Utilization

Drug Ingredient	Strength	Bill Lines	% of Grand Total Bill Lines	Total Paid	% of Grand Total Paid
gabapentin	100MG	1,298	34.7%	\$6,790.96	18.4%
gabapentin	300MG	1,706	45.6%	\$18,221.21	49.3%
gabapentin	400MG	26	0.7%	\$314.17	0.8%
gabapentin	600MG	668	17.9%	\$8,040.97	21.7%
gabapentin	800MG	40	1.1%	\$2,783.72	7.5%
gabapentin (once-daily)	600MG	2	0.1%	\$829.98	2.2%
	Grand Total	3,740		\$36,981.01	

Exempt/Non-Exempt Status

- Should the non-exempt status change for the immediate release products due acute use?
- Is a 4-day peri-operative allowance sufficient given guidelines indicate use can be from 2 to 6 weeks post-operative?

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

Ibuprofen Price Outliers

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD

DWC Consultant

Ibuprofen

- There are currently 7 dosage form/strength combinations on the expanded MTUS list with RxCUIs

Drug Ingredient	Reference Brand Name	Exempt/Non-Exempt*	Drug Class	Route of Administration	Dosage Form	Strength	RxCUI
ibuprofen	MOTRIN	Exempt	Analgesics - Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID)	Oral	Capsule	200 MG	310964
ibuprofen	MOTRIN	Exempt	Analgesics - Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID)	Oral	Suspension	100 MG/5 ML	197803
ibuprofen	ADVIL	Exempt	Analgesics - Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID)	Oral	Tablet	200 MG	310965
ibuprofen	MOTRIN	Exempt	Analgesics - Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID)	Oral	Tablet	300 MG	197804
ibuprofen	MOTRIN	Exempt	Analgesics - Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID)	Oral	Tablet	400 MG	197805
ibuprofen	MOTRIN	Exempt	Analgesics - Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID)	Oral	Tablet	600 MG	197806
ibuprofen	MOTRIN	Exempt	Analgesics - Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID)	Oral	Tablet	800 MG	197807

Ibuprofen Prices

- Prices taken from current Pharmacy Fee Schedule posted on DWC website.
- One NDC for ibuprofen 300mg tablets exists with a per tablet price of \$13.19444
- There isn't a Medicaid FUL or Medi-Cal MAIC price because there is only one product (FUL and MAIC pricing requires 3 or more equivalent products)

NDC	Drug Ingredient	Drug Name	Strength	Dosage Form	Legend	Lowest	No-Substitution	Effective Date
70512079490	IBUPROFEN	IBUPROFEN	300 MG	TABLET	Y	13.19444	13.19444	2025-07-03

- Prices range of other strengths:
 - 400 mg – range 4 cents to 20 cents per tablet ; two outlier NDCs of \$3.27 and \$11.00
 - 600 mg – range 4 cents to 30 cents per tablet ; two outlier NDCs of \$3.45 and \$11.00
 - 800 mg – range 6 cents to 38 cents per tablet ; two outlier NDCs of \$3.66 and \$11.00
- The \$11.00 outlier will likely no longer be available as the FDA inactivated those NDCs ; the federal workers compensation program removed these NDCs from reimbursement (i.e. a claim would deny if billed using one of the three NDCs). Products were not in the utilization data
- The \$3 products are from a manufacturer that is not part of the Medicaid program, therefore the pricing defaults in the system to the Wholesaler Acquisition Cost instead of Medicaid pricing. Products were not in the utilization data

Removal of 300mg

- Should the 300mg strength be removed from the expanded MTUS list with RxCUIs?
- Any other actions related to outlier priced NDCs?

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

Cyclobenzaprine and Tizanidine

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD

DWC Consultant

Special Fill Allowance

- Noted by Committee that cyclobenzaprine and tizanidine listing should be expanded because not all strengths and dosage forms are appropriate for the Special Fill allowance.

Drug Ingredient	Reference Brand Name	Exempt/Non-Exempt*	Special Fill	Peri-Op	Drug Class	Route of Administration	Dosage Form	Strength	RxCUI
cyclobenzaprine hcl	AMRIX, FLEXERIL	Non-Exempt	4 days	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	ALL ORAL DOSAGE FORMS	ALL STRENGTHS	1156628
tizanidine hcl	ZANAFLEX	Non-Exempt	4 days	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	ALL ORAL DOSAGE FORMS	ALL STRENGTHS	1162724

Cyclobenzaprine

- The extended release 15mg and 30mg capsules (AMRIX) and sublingual 2.8mg are used for chronic therapy.
- The acute starting dose is typically 5mg-10mg of the immediate release product.
- Listing will expand and identify the 4-day Special Fill for the 5mg, 7.5mg and 10mg cyclobenzaprine tablets.

Drug Ingredient	Reference Brand Name	Exempt/Non-Exempt*	Special Fill	Peri-Op	Drug Class	Route of Administration	Dosage Form	Strength	RxCUI
cyclobenzaprine hcl	AMRIX	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Capsule, Extended Release	15 MG	828358
cyclobenzaprine hcl	AMRIX	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Capsule, Extended Release	30 MG	828353
cyclobenzaprine hcl	FLEXERIL	Non-Exempt	4 days	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Tablet	5 MG	828320
cyclobenzaprine hcl	FLEXERIL	Non-Exempt	4 days	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Tablet	7.5 MG	828299
cyclobenzaprine hcl	FLEXERIL	Non-Exempt	4 days	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Tablet	10 MG	828348
cyclobenzaprine hcl	FLEXERIL	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Tablet, sublingual	2.8 MG	2723106

Tizanidine

- Recommended initial dose for tizanidine is 2mg every 6 to 8 hours with dosing adjustments as needed
- tizanidine is available in 2mg, 4mg, 6mg, 8 mg tablets or capsules, as well as a 0.4mg/ml solution.
- Listing will expand with the 2mg capsules and tablets and the 0.4mg/ml solution will retain the 4-day Special Fill allowance.

Drug Ingredient	Reference Brand Name	Exempt/Non-Exempt*	Special Fill	Peri-Op	Drug Class	Route of Administration	Dosage Form	Strength	RxCUI
tizanidine hcl	ZANAFLEX	Non-Exempt	4 days	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Capsule	2 MG	485486
tizanidine hcl	ZANAFLEX	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Capsule	4 MG	485485
tizanidine hcl	ZANAFLEX	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Capsule	6 MG	485484
tizanidine hcl	ZANAFLEX	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Capsule	8 MG	2723708
tizanidine hcl	ZANAFLEX	Non-Exempt	4 days	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Tablet	2 MG	313412
tizanidine hcl	ZANAFLEX	Non-Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Tablet	4 MG	313413
tizanidine hcl	ZANAFLEX	Non-Exempt	4 days	Not Applicable	Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	Oral	Solution, Oral	0.4 MG/ML	2709432

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

Duloxetine

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD

DWC Consultant

MTUS Listing

- The expanded MTUS with RxCUI list has 4 strengths of duloxetine listed.

Drug Ingredient	Reference Brand Name	Exempt/Non-Exempt*	Special Fill	Peri-Op	Drug Class	Route of Administration	Dosage Form	Strength	RxCUI
duloxetine hcl	CYMBALTA	Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Antidepressants	Oral	Capsule, Delayed Release	20 MG	596926
duloxetine hcl	CYMBALTA	Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Antidepressants	Oral	Capsule, Delayed Release	30 MG	596930
duloxetine hcl	DRIZALMA SPRINKLE	Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Antidepressants	Oral	Capsule, Delayed Release	40 MG	616402
duloxetine hcl	CYMBALTA	Exempt	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Antidepressants	Oral	Capsule, Delayed Release	60 MG	596934

Duloxetine Availability

- Eli Lilly discontinued production of brand CYMBALTA in 2025.
- Sun Pharmaceuticals originally produced 20mg, 30mg and 60mg duloxetine generic but discontinued the products.
- Sun reintroduced duloxetine as brand name DRIZALMA in 2024 with 20mg, 30mg, 40mg, and 60mg strengths pursuant to an approved New Drug Application.
- There was a recall of certain duloxetine 20mg, 30mg, and 60 mg capsules lots in 2024.
- According to the FDA Orange Book and news reports, there should be generic duloxetine products in 20mg, 30mg, 40mg, and 60mg available on the market.

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

July Meeting

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD

DWC Consultant

Follow-up Items Anticipated for July Meeting

- Biosimilar utilization trends
- Use of GLP-1 products
- Use of proton pump inhibitors beyond 90 days
- Anticonvulsant and migraine products review including outreach to ACOEM regarding a guideline review on migraine products

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

Review of Recommendations

Adjournment