

# Division of Workers' Compensation Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

January 21, 2026  
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
1	TOPICAL LOCAL ANESTHETICS	41,448	\$7,039,176.66
2	NSAIDS	186,552	\$6,718,137.68
3	ANTICONSULSANTS	68,305	\$4,538,123.03
4	MIGRAINE PRODUCTS	5,895	\$4,072,292.84
5	DIRECT FACTOR XA INHIBITORS (ANTICOAGULANTS)	5,029	\$3,993,920.16

- 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- Cont.

- Top 5 therapeutic categories based on Claim lines

Rank by Total Claims	THERAPEUTIC CATEGORIES	Bill Lines	Total Paid
1	NSAIDS	186,552.00	\$6,718,137.68
2	ANTICONSULSANTS	68,305.00	\$4,538,123.03
3	MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY AGENTS (MUSCLE RELAXANTS)	51,720.00	\$951,103.84
4	OPIOID ANALGESICS AND NON-SALICYLATE ANALGESICS	44,443.00	\$1,084,546.93
5	TOPICAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY NON-STEROIDAL	43,083.00	\$3,798,314.13

- 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