

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Division of Workers' Compensation1515 Clay Street, 17th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612

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**Pharmacy and Therapeutics Advisory Committee****MINUTES OF MEETING****Wednesday, January 21st 2026**

Via Tele/Video-Conference

In Attendance:**DWC:**

George Parisotto

DWC Administrative Director

Suzanne Honor-Vangerov

DWC Legal Counsel

Kevin Gorospe, Pharm.D.

DWC Consultant

Committee Members:

Raymond Meister, M.D., DWC Executive

Medical Director, Chair

Daniel Mirski, M.D.

Steven Feinberg, M.D.

Daniel Zaghi, M.D. (Absent)

Todd Shinohara, Pharm.D., MA.

Raymond Tan, Pharm.D.

Lori Reisner, Pharm.D.

I. Welcome and Introductions

George Parisotto, Administrative Director, DWC

A. Conflict of Interest reminder

B. State and federal Antitrust Law advisement

II. Approval of Minutes from the July 16, 2025 Meeting

Dr. Raymond Meister, Executive Medical Director, DWC

Motion: Approval of the minutes from the July 16, 2025 meeting.**Vote:** The committee members in attendance voted unanimously for approval of the July 16, 2025 meeting minutes.**Related briefing:** [July 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/mtus/Meetings/July-2025/Meeting-Minutes-July-2025.pdf)

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III. Discussion

A. Updated RxCUI Listings — MTUS v13

- a. Reviewed updates to MTUS v13 RxCUI listings including three new products:
 - i. Alpha lipoic acid
 - ii. Belsomra
 - iii. Mycophenolate mofetil
- b. Reviewed interchangeable labeling for adalimumab biosimilars; noted IDACIO and YUSIMRY not interchangeable with HUMIRA.
- c. No RxCUI consolidations currently.
- d. Committee Discussion
- e. Discussed feasibility of publishing exempt-only RxCUI listing subsets and requested follow-up feasibility analysis.
- f. Discussed utilization trend review of biosimilars (diabetic/non-diabetic).

B. Pharmacy Drug Utilization — Calendar Year 2024

- a. Reviewed 2024 expenditures and claims data.
 - i. Highest expenditure categories included topical anesthetics, anticonvulsants, NSAIDS, migraine products, and direct factor XA inhibitors (anticoagulants).
 - ii. Highest claim categories included NSAIDs and muscle relaxants.
 - iii. Anticonvulsants
 - Pregabalin and gabapentin dominated category spend, carbamazepine only exempt agent with minor utilization.
 - Committee discussed exempt vs. non-exempt alignment with MTUS and evidence-based neuropathic pain management.
 - iv. Migraine Products
 - Rimegepant accounted for majority of spend; seven of top ten products unlisted on MTUS Drug List.
 - Sumatriptan succinate (exempt) is highest listed product, but only accounts for 2.6% of the amount spent.
 - Committee noted divergence between MTUS and current migraine treatment standards; suggested outreach to ACOEM for guideline review.
 - v. Muscle Relaxants
 - Cyclobenzaprine largest category volume; all products non-exempt.
 - Committee requested breakout by strength and tizanidine capsule/tablet formulation impact.
 - vi. Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI's)
 - Esomeprazole magnesium had largest expenditure share; six products exempt and two unlisted.
 - Committee raised concern regarding prolonged therapy beyond guideline duration and requested duration data

beyond 90 days.

- Committee discussed whether Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM) have utilization controls set up relative to PPI's that would limit use.

C. MTUS Product Status

a. Current Max Price Per Day

- Maximum current price was calculated across the four categories reviewed; no aberrant exempt products were noted.
- Reminded Committee of generic first policy in workers compensation.

IV. Additional Public Comments

A. No additional public comments

V. Review of Recommendations

A. No vote or specific committee recommendations.

B. Informal review recommendations:

- Biosimilars - Committee recommended utilization trend review.
- GLP-1 products - Committee recommended utilization and appropriateness review.
- Pregabalin - Committee recommended assessment of exempt status considerations.
- Migraine products - Committee recommended outreach to American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) regarding guideline review.
- PPIs - Committee recommended assessment of chronic use beyond 90 days using WCIS data if available.
- Special Fill - breakout Cyclobenzaprine strengths and Tizanidine formulations.
- NSAIDs - review new Ibuprofen formulation line for MTUS listing.
- Duloxetine - review discontinuation and new formulations for MTUS impact.
- Category Deep Dive (Q2) - anticonvulsants and migraine.