

Division of Workers' Compensation Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

October 21, 2026
12:30pm to 2:30pm



State of California
Gavin Newsom
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Agenda

- **Welcome and Introductions**
Suzanne Honor-Vangerov, Legal Counsel, DWC
- **Approval of July 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
Dr. Raymond Meister, Executive Medical Director, DWC
- **Discussion:**
 - Drug Category Utilization – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - Topical Products – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - GLP-1 Drugs – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - PPI and H2 Blockers – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - Biologics – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
 - Drug Categories to Review – *Kevin Gorospe Pharm D*
- **Additional Public Comments**
- **Review of Committee Recommendations**
- **Adjourn**

Welcome and Introductions

Suzanne Honor-Vangerov
Legal Counsel, DWC

Approval of July 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Dr. Raymond Meister
Executive Medical Director, DWC

Drug Category Utilization

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD, DWC Consultant

Pharmacy Utilization – Categories

- 12-month utilization data pulled
- Some NDC errors in the file but these were manually reviewed and corrected
- Drugs were identified as either being on the MTUS Drug List or Not
 - MTUS Therapeutic Categories were assigned to drugs on the List
 - Pharmaceutical Categories using Medi-Cal data were assigned to the non-MTUS Drug List drugs
- MTUS Drug List Ulcer drug utilization (Proton Pump Inhibitors and H2 Receptor Blockers) and Topical drug (MTUS Drug List and non-MTUS Drug List) utilization was also reviewed

Total Drug Utilization (MTUS and non-MTUS)

- Though non-MTUS Drug List drugs accounted for only 13.6% of the claims, they accounted for 50% of the amount reimbursed

ALL CLAIMS	CLAIMS	% of Total	TOTAL PAID	% of Total
Not MTUS Drug List	119,873	13.6%	\$44,500,148.20	50.0%
MTUS Drug List	759,148	86.4%	\$44,419,708.03	50.0%
Total	879,021		\$88,919,856.23	

Top 10 MTUS Drug Categories

- As anticipated, Dermatologicals and NSAID analgesics combining to account for almost 40% the total MTUS paid amount.
- Due to their high per prescription costs, Anticoagulants and Migraine Products accounted for almost 20% of the total paid but less than 2% of the claims.

MTUS category (Top 10)	Bill Lines	% MTUS Total	Total Paid	% MTUS Total
Dermatologicals	104,168	13.7%	\$8,916,978.38	20.1%
Analgesics - Anti-Inflammatory (NSAID)	204,956	27.0%	\$8,700,338.06	19.6%
Anticoagulants	6,087	0.8%	\$4,788,427.46	10.8%
Migraine Products	5,872	0.8%	\$3,923,191.08	8.8%
Anticonvulsants	68,996	9.1%	\$3,251,895.06	7.3%
Analgesics - Opioid	66,288	8.7%	\$2,618,405.43	5.9%
Antidepressants	63,824	8.4%	\$2,500,877.35	5.6%
Ulcer Drugs (Proton pump inhibitor)	32,353	4.3%	\$1,681,392.65	3.8%
Analgesics-Opioid	3,040	0.4%	\$961,112.52	2.2%
Musculoskeletal Therapy Agents (Muscle Relaxants)	53,319	7.0%	\$882,979.30	2.0%
MTUS Total	759,148		\$44,419,708.03	

Top 10 Non-MTUS Drug List Categories

- Category totals are small as drugs are spread across more categories than MTUS

Pharmaceutical Class Description (Top 10)	Bill Lines	% non-MTUS Total	Total Paid	% non-MTUS Total
Antineoplastic Systemic Enzyme Inhibitor	304	0.3%	\$4,077,266.12	9.2%
Anti-Inflammatory/Antiarthritic Agents, Miscellaneous	1,758	1.5%	\$2,345,155.16	5.3%
Topical Local Anesthetics	4,411	3.7%	\$2,009,784.93	4.5%
Antihyperlipidemic – PCSK9 Inhibitors	2,435	2.0%	\$2,003,396.52	4.5%
Antihyperglycemic Sodium Glucocorticoid CoTransport 2 (SGLT2) Inhibitor	1,826	1.5%	\$1,880,323.69	4.2%
Interleukin-4 (IL-4) Receptor Alpha Antagonist, Monoclonal Antibody	375	0.3%	\$1,593,835.57	3.6%
Antineoplastic – Antiandrogenic Agents	101	0.1%	\$1,341,824.87	3.0%
Anti-Obesity - Incretin Mimetics Combination	901	0.8%	\$1,255,529.48	2.8%
Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)	896	0.7%	\$1,132,324.53	2.5%
Antihyperglycemic - Incretin Mimetics Combination	744	0.6%	\$1,087,567.33	2.4%
Non-MTUS Drug List Total	119,873		\$44,500,148.20	

Topical Products

J. Kevin Gorospe, PharmD, DWC Consultant

Topical Route Products

- Topical products (based on route of administration in the drug pricing file data) were a significant expenditure accounting approximately 13% of all claims and 13% of the amount paid.
- MTUS Drug List topicals accounted for almost 20% of the amount paid for all MTUS Claims

TOPICALS	CLAIMS	TOTAL PAID
TOTAL	117,819	\$11,767,024.64
% of All Claims	13.4%	13.2%
Non- MTUS Drug List	13,307	\$3,012,501.07
% of All Non-MTUS Claims	11.1%	6.8%
MTUS Drug List	104,512	\$8,754,523.57
% of All MTUS Claims	13.8%	19.7%

Topical Drugs

- As noted in prior meetings lidocaine and diclofenac products are a significant part of the expenditures.

NDC PAID	Drug Name	Generic Name	MTUS (yes/no)	Route of Administration	Bill Lines	Total Paid
65162079108	LIDOCAINE DIS 5% PATCH	LIDOCAINE	YES	TOPICAL	11557	\$1,380,389.04
00603188016	LIDOCAINE DIS 5% PATCH	LIDOCAINE	YES	TOPICAL	13787	\$1,328,605.99
13107026947	DICLOFENAC SOL 2%	DICLOFENAC SODIUM	YES	TOPICAL	1465	\$1,032,122.63
50488100101	TEROCIN DIS 4-4%	LIDOCAINE/MENTHOL	NO	TOPICAL	1677	\$680,431.09
69557011130	ZTLIDO PAD 1.8%	LIDOCAINE	YES	TOPICAL	1135	\$536,964.32
00591352530	LIDOCAINE DIS 5% PATCH	LIDOCAINE	YES	TOPICAL	3534	\$310,160.29
69097072044	DICLOFENAC GEL 1%	DICLOFENAC SODIUM	YES	TOPICAL	16729	\$298,864.85
82347050505	LIDOCAINE DIS 5% PATCH	LIDOCAINE	YES	TOPICAL	4156	\$298,028.45
68040075240	EPICERAM EMU	EMOLLIENT COMBINATION NO.32	NO	TOPICAL	21	\$280,792.72
72835011415	LIDOZALL PLU CRE 4%	LIDOCAINE HCL	YES	TOPICAL	254	\$246,083.10
83881000135	LIDOPRO OIN	LIDOCAINE HCL/ME SAL/CAP/MENTH	NO	TOPICAL	456	\$199,418.35
59088046607	LIDOGEL GEL 2.8%	LIDOCAINE HCL	YES	TOPICAL	211	\$184,718.97
73086090499	LIDOC/MENTH PAD 4-4%	LIDOCAINE/MENTHOL	NO	TOPICAL	222	\$174,832.03
68180053701	DICLOFENAC SOL 2%	DICLOFENAC SODIUM	YES	TOPICAL	449	\$174,431.94
43598097710	DICLOFENAC GEL 1%	DICLOFENAC SODIUM	YES	TOPICAL	11502	\$160,463.65

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

GLP1 Drugs

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Data retrieval

- Trying to identify unduplicated GLP-1 ICD-10 diagnoses per unduplicated patient and then tracking them per patient is very complex.
- To reduce complexity, the primary and secondary diagnoses for these patients were identified and their occurrences aggregated.
- These aggregated totals provide a much easier view of the data.

Primary Diagnosis

- A different look at the diagnosis in individuals provided GLP-1 products.
- Total occurrences for various diagnoses were tallied in GLP-1 using individuals.
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications tallied the 6th most primary diagnosis (132 occurrences) and Obesity the 49th most (32 occurrences).

ICD10 Primary Diagnosis	Short Description	Claim Count
I10	Essential (primary) hypertension	368
T14.90	Injury, unspecified	207
T14.90XA	Injury, unspecified, initial encounter	168
R00.2	Palpitations	136
Z01.818	Encounter for other preprocedural examination	133
E11.9	Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications	132
M54.16	Radiculopathy, lumbar region	123
I25.10	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery w/o ang pctrs	114
M54.2	Cervicalgia	112
G47.33	Obstructive sleep apnea (adult) (pediatric)	102
M54.5	Low back pain	101
R06.02	Shortness of breath	85
E78.5	Hyperlipidemia, unspecified	80
M25.561	Pain in right knee	79
R07.89	Other chest pain	74

Secondary Diagnosis

- Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications tallied the 2nd most primary diagnosis (120 occurrences) and Obesity the 9th most (71 occurrences).

ICD10 Primary Diagnosis	Short Description	Claim Count
I10	Essential (primary) hypertension	302
E11.9	Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications	120
M54.16	Radiculopathy, lumbar region	105
E78.5	Hyperlipidemia, unspecified	98
I25.10	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery w/o ang pctrs	85
R00.2	Palpitations	74
I49.40	Unspecified premature depolarization	74
M54.2	Cervicalgia	73
E66.9	Obesity, unspecified	71
R06.02	Shortness of breath	71
I11.9	Hypertensive heart disease without heart failure	67
M25.561	Pain in right knee	66
M54.5	Low back pain	64
M25.562	Pain in left knee	61
M51.36	Other intervertebral disc degeneration, lumbar region	60

GLP-1 Utilization

- Overall, the volume and costs associated with GLP-1 drugs is relatively small.
 - Less than 1% of total Claims
 - Less than 2% of total Paid amount
- GLP-1 drugs do not appear to be a significant issue at this time.
- Committee should revisit this group of drugs 12-months from now.

GLP-1 Use	CLAIMS	% of All Claims	TOTAL PAID	% of All Claims
GLP-1	1,261	0.14%	\$1,667,080.36	1.9%
Total All claims	879,021		\$88,919,856.23	

NDC PAID	Drug Name	Generic Name	Bill Lines	Total Paid	Pharmaceutical Class Description
00002318201	TRULICITY INJ 4.5/0.5	DULAGLUTIDE	4	\$3,948.96	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00002318280	TRULICITY INJ 4.5/0.5	DULAGLUTIDE	2	\$5,842.88	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00002223680	TRULICITY INJ 3/0.5	DULAGLUTIDE	44	\$70,051.12	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00002143480	TRULICITY INJ 1.5/0.5	DULAGLUTIDE	19	\$26,586.66	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00002143380	TRULICITY INJ 0.75/0.5	DULAGLUTIDE	13	\$12,704.67	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
70121168601	EXENATIDE INJ 10MCG	EXENATIDE	15	\$11,160.64	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00310652401	BYETTA INJ 10MCG	EXENATIDE	9	\$3,677.10	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00143914403	LIRAGLUTIDE INJ 18MG/3ML	LIRAGLUTIDE	7	\$3,967.38	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00480366722	LIRAGLUTIDE INJ 18MG/3ML	LIRAGLUTIDE	2	\$1,184.19	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
71288056384	LIRAGLUTIDE INJ 18MG/3ML	LIRAGLUTIDE	1	\$923.99	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00480366720	LIRAGLUTIDE INJ 18MG/3ML	LIRAGLUTIDE	3	\$515.33	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00169477212	OZEMPIC INJ 8MG/3ML	SEMAGLUTIDE	283	\$354,434.26	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00169413013	OZEMPIC INJ 4MG/3ML	SEMAGLUTIDE	268	\$348,825.96	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00169418113	OZEMPIC INJ 2MG/3ML	SEMAGLUTIDE	178	\$219,331.81	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00169413212	OZEMPIC INJ 2/1.5ML	SEMAGLUTIDE	1	\$0.00	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00169430730	RYBELSUS TAB 7MG	SEMAGLUTIDE	25	\$36,068.84	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00169430330	RYBELSUS TAB 3MG	SEMAGLUTIDE	6	\$5,892.52	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00169431430	RYBELSUS TAB 14MG	SEMAGLUTIDE	16	\$27,208.22	Antihyperglycemic, Incretin Mimetic (GLP-1 Receptor Agonist)
00169280015	SAXENDA INJ 18MG/3ML	LIRAGLUTIDE	2	\$2,564.74	Anti-obesity Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonist
00480725046	LIRAGLUTIDE INJ 18MG/3ML	LIRAGLUTIDE	1	\$341.83	Anti-obesity Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonist
00169452414	WEGOVY INJ 2.4MG	SEMAGLUTIDE	157	\$245,980.92	Anti-obesity Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonist
00169451714	WEGOVY INJ 1.7MG	SEMAGLUTIDE	59	\$93,189.08	Anti-obesity Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonist
00169450114	WEGOVY INJ 1MG	SEMAGLUTIDE	35	\$44,786.79	Anti-obesity Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonist
00169450514	WEGOVY INJ 0.5MG	SEMAGLUTIDE	52	\$66,998.10	Anti-obesity Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonist
00169452514	WEGOVY INJ 0.25MG	SEMAGLUTIDE	59	\$80,894.37	Anti-obesity Glucagon-like Peptide-1 (GLP-1) Receptor Agonist

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

PPI and H2 Blockers

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PPI and H2 (MTUS) Utilization

- Ulcer drugs in the PPI and H2 blocker MTUS categories account for a very small percentage, 4.1%, of MTUS drug expenditures.
- PPIs dominate the ulcer drug category, accounting for over 93% of the expenditures.
- A review of primary diagnosis shows GERD without esophagitis as the 24th most frequently reported primary diagnosis and the 19th most frequent secondary diagnosis
- Days supply is still a work in progress so there is no data to share today.

Ulcer Drugs (MTUS)	CLAIMS	% of Total	TOTAL PAID	% of Total
H2 Receptor Blockers	3,925	10.8%	\$120,679.05	6.7%
Proton Pump Inhibitors	32,353	89.2%	\$1,681,392.65	93.3%
Total	36,278		\$1,802,071.70	
Percent of Total MTUS	4.8%		4.1%	

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

Biologics

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Biologic Utilization

- Biologic and biosimilar drugs were identified as those marked as having been approved pursuant to a Biologic License Application (BLA) with the federal Food and Drug Administration.
- Pharmacy Utilization data shows that most of the biologic drugs being reimbursed are not on the MTUS Drug List.
 - MTUS utilization is from human insulin and TNF-Alpha blocking drugs
 - MTUS drugs account for 2.3% of the biologic claims and 4.3% of the amount paid for biologics
- Overall biologics account for less than 1% of all claims reported but almost 11% of the amount paid.

- Of the top 14 NDCs, Dupixent and Repatha account for 34% of the total spent on Biologics
- Also in this group, \$684 thousand was spent on Botox.
- These totals do not include the same drugs that are listed beyond the top 14 in expenditures

NDC PAID	Drug Name	Generic Name	MTUS category	Bill Lines	Total Paid
00024591502	DUPIXENT INJ 300/2ML	DUPILUMAB	NOT MTUS Drug List	273	\$1,194,661.30
72511076002	REPATHA SURE INJ 140MG/ML	EVOLOCUMAB	NOT MTUS Drug List	1279	\$962,558.42
72511039302	REPATHA SURE INJ 140MG/ML	EVOLOCUMAB	NOT MTUS Drug List	634	\$584,652.54
57894006103	STELARA INJ 90MG/ML	USTEKINUMAB	NOT MTUS Drug List	17	\$578,751.34
00023392102	BOTOX INJ 200UNIT	ONABOTULINUMTOXINA	NOT MTUS Drug List	272	\$428,648.64
55513012301	TEZSPIRE INJ 210MG	TEZEPELUMAB-EKKO	NOT MTUS Drug List	77	\$383,460.16
00024591401	DUPIXENT INJ 300/2ML	DUPILUMAB	NOT MTUS Drug List	86	\$344,511.41
00023114501	BOTOX INJ 100UNIT	ONABOTULINUMTOXINA	NOT MTUS Drug List	156	\$255,787.83
55513084301	AIMOVIG INJ 140MG/ML	ERENUMAB-AOOE	NOT MTUS Drug List	248	\$224,167.53
00310183030	FASENRA PEN INJ 30MG/ML	BENRALIZUMAB	NOT MTUS Drug List	37	\$213,695.07
73604091404	ARCALYST INJ 220MG	RILONACEPT	NOT MTUS Drug List	4	\$190,230.30
72511050101	REPATHA INJ 140MG/ML	EVOLOCUMAB	NOT MTUS Drug List	188	\$183,656.98
73536050001	BESREMI SOL 500MCG	ROPEGINTERFERON ALFA-2B-NJFT	NOT MTUS Drug List	14	\$162,612.05
00002143611	EMGALITY INJ 120MG/ML	GALCANEZUMAB-GNLM	NOT MTUS Drug List	185	\$156,535.85

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

Drug Categories to Review

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Questions on what is next

- MTUS-ACOEM Practice Guidelines control which drugs are on the MTUS Drug List and relies heavily on the updated evidence-based reviews from ACOEM.
- Given the large expenditures for non-MTUS Drug List drugs, is there a path to review drugs that are currently not listed on MTUS and have not been reviewed by ACOEM?
- Should there be a deeper dive into some of the drugs being covered that are not on the MTUS Drug List?
- Of the MTUS Drug List categories, given the expenditures presented today, which should be a focus?

Committee Discussion

Public Comments

Review of Recommendations

Adjournment