

ePHYSICIAN EDUCATION

NEWS FLASH

Re: Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) Drug Formulary effective 1-1-18

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has adopted MTUS Drug Formulary as set forth in Section 9792.27.5 and the formulary rules set forth in Sections 9792.20 through 9792.27.23

Drugs prescribed to treat a work related injury or illness fall within Labor Code section 4600's definition of "medical treatment" and are subject to the relevant provisions of the MTUS, including the MTUS Treatment Guidelines.

Highlights of the Drug Formulary Regulations are outlined below:

- ✓ An Exempt drug indicates a drug may be prescribed without seeking authorization through Prospective Review if in accordance with MTUS
- ✓ Physician dispensed "Exempt" drugs are limited to one 7-day supply at initial visit within 7-days of the date of injury without Prospective Review
- ✓ Dispensing of a "Brand" name "Exempt" drug where generic is available requires authorization through Prospective Review
- ✓ "Non-Exempt" or "Unlisted" drug requires authorization through Prospective Review prior to prescribing
- ✓ "Special Fill" Non-Exempt drug may be dispensed without Prospective Review if at initial visit within 7-days of injury and supply does not exceed #days indicated and is a generic or single source brand, or brand where physician substantiates medical necessity and if in accordance with MTUS
- ✓ "Perioperative Fill" Non-Exempt drug may be prescribed without Prospective Review if prescribed during the perioperative period (4-days before through 4-days after surgery), and supply does not exceed #days indicated and is a generic or single source brand or brand name where physician substantiates medical necessity and is in accordance with MTUS

For injuries occurring prior to 1-1-18, the MTUS Drug Formulary should be phased in to ensure that injured employees who are receiving ongoing drug treatment are not harmed by an abrupt change to the course of treatment. The physician is responsible for requesting a medically appropriate and safe course of treatment for the injured employee in accordance with the MTUS. The progress report, including the treatment plan and Request for Authorization shall be submitted at the time the next progress report is due under section 9785, subdivision (f)(8), however, if that is not feasible, no later than **April 1, 2018**.

For a complete listing of drug status and regulations, please go to the following link:

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/DWCPPropRegs/MTUS-Formulary/MTUS-Formulary.htm>