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DWCNewsline

Division of Workers' Compensation
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Division of Workers' Compensation issues 2nd 15-day notice of revisions to proposed medical treatment guideline regulations

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) has modified its medical treatment utilization schedule (MTUS) regulations. A 2nd 15-day notice of modification was distributed to interested parties and the revised regulations are posted on the DWC Web site. Members of the public may comment on the revisions until 5 p.m. on Feb. 20, 2009.

DWC has proposed regulations to update and restructure the MTUS, commonly referred to as medical treatment guidelines. The proposed regulations would add two new sections to the MTUS: chronic pain guidelines and postsurgical treatment guidelines. The regulations would also update the elbow disorders chapter by adopting the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine's Occupational Medicine (ACOEM) Practice Guidelines, 2nd edition, 2007 elbow chapter. Additionally, the proposed regulations restructure the MTUS into a clinical topics format, which will allow for easier updates in the future.

The revisions in this draft of the regulations include the following:

- Clarifying language in the clinical topics sections when the chronic pain medical treatment guidelines apply.
- Clarifying language in the clinical topics section that the chronic pain medical treatment guidelines and the postsurgical treatment guidelines supersede any applicable treatment guidelines in accordance with section 9792.23(b).
- Clarifying language in the elbow disorders section that the chronic pain medical treatment guidelines supersede the text relating to chronic pain in the elbow disorders chapter.
- Part 2 of the chronic pain medical treatment guidelines has been revised as follows:
 - The individual treatment topic guideline for Acetaminophen (APAP) is modified to strike the last two sentences of the guideline, wherein the guideline discusses two *Manchikanti, et al.* articles, and the evidence base in the guideline has been expanded.

- The individual treatment topic guideline for Topical Analgesics is modified by the Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) after ODG conducted its own evidence-based reviews on the scientific evidence pertaining to Topical Analgesics. This guideline contains clarifying language on compounded products, muscle relaxants as a topical product, and antiepilepsy drug as a topical product.
- The individual treatment topic guideline for Topical Analgesics, compounded, is modified to reference the Topical Analgesics guidelines, and to delete the text of the Topical Analgesics, compounded guideline.

Further information and the modified proposals can be found at http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/DWCPropRegs/MTUS_Regulations/MTUS_Regulations.htm.

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