

TITLE 8. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DIVISION 1. DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
CHAPTER 4.5. DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION
SUBCHAPTER 1. ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR -- ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
ARTICLE 5.5.2 MEDICAL TREATMENT UTILIZATION SCHEDULE

§ 9792.24.4 Opioids Medical Treatment Guideline

(a) The opioids medical treatment guideline consists of four parts, is entitled “The Guideline for the Use of Opioids to Treat Work-Related Injuries,” dated [insert effective date of regulations] and is adopted and incorporated by reference into the MTUS. Part A contains a summary, introduction, and abbreviated treatment protocols. Part B includes complete recommendations and appendices containing useful tools. Part C is the evidence basis to support the recommendations. Part D is a compilation of findings from a review of existing guidelines. This guideline will replace the existing parts of the MTUS that refer to opioid use. A copy of the opioids medical treatment guideline may be obtained from the Medical Unit, Division of Workers’ Compensation, P.O. Box 71010, Oakland, CA 94612-1486, or from the DWC web site at <http://www.dwc.ca.gov>.

(b) The opioids treatment guideline describes the appropriate use of opioid medications as part of an overall multidisciplinary treatment regimen for acute, sub-acute, post-operative, and chronic non-cancer pain. This guideline applies when alternative therapies do not provide adequate pain relief and opioid medications are being considered for the purposes of reducing pain and improving function.

Authority: Sections 133, 4603.5, 5307.3, and 5307.27, Labor Code.
Reference: Sections 77.5, 4600, 4604.5, and 5307.27, Labor Code.