

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

**§ 9792.23. Clinical Topics**

(a) [No change]

(b) For all conditions or injuries not addressed in the MTUS, the authorized treatment and diagnostic services in the initial management and subsequent treatment for presenting complaints shall be in accordance with other scientifically and evidence-based medical treatment guidelines that are nationally recognized by the medical community pursuant to section 9792.21(d)(1).

(1) In providing treatment using other guidelines pursuant to subdivision (b) above and in the absence of any cure for the patient who continues to have pain lasting three or more months from the initial onset of pain, the chronic pain medical treatment guidelines in section 9792.24.2 shall apply and supersede any applicable chronic pain guideline in accordance with section 9792.23(b).

(2) [No change]

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

**§ 9792.24.2. Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines**

(a) The Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines (July 28, 2016), consisting of two parts, are adopted and incorporated by reference into the MTUS. Part 1 is entitled Introduction. Part 2 is entitled the “Official Disability Guidelines (ODG) Treatment in Workers’ Compensation – Pain (Chronic)” consisting of an edited version from the Official Disability Guidelines published on April 6, 2015, which the Division of Workers’ Compensation has adapted with permission from the publisher. A copy of the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines 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 Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines apply when the patient has chronic pain as defined in section 9792.20.

(c) When a patient has chronic pain and the treatment for the condition is covered in the Clinical Topics section of the MTUS but is not addressed in the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, the Clinical Topics section applies to that treatment.

(d) When a patient has chronic pain and the treatment is addressed in both the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines and the specific guideline found in the Clinical Topics section of the MTUS or if the treatment is only addressed in the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines, then the Chronic Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines shall apply.

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

#### **§ 9792.24.4. Opioids Treatment Guidelines**

(a) The Opioids Treatment Guidelines (July 28, 2016) consisting of two parts, is entitled “The Guideline for the Use of Opioids to Treat Work-Related Injuries,” and is adopted and incorporated by reference into the MTUS. Part 1 contains the executive summary, abbreviated treatment protocols, background information, complete recommendations, and appendices with useful tools for clinicians. Part 2 contains supplemental information consisting of a discussion of the medical evidence supporting the recommendations and a summary of recommendations from other guidelines that were reviewed. These guidelines replace the existing parts of the MTUS that refer to opioid use. A copy of the Opioids Treatment Guidelines 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 Guidelines describe 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. These guidelines apply when the use of opioid medications is being considered as part of the treatment regimen.

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