



Prior Authorization and High Dollar Rejections Guidebook

**Brand to Generic
Reference Included**

2022 Edition

Introduction

This guide provides information on some of the most commonly prescribed medications in workers' compensation. The intent is to provide a resource for claims professionals that allows easy access to information regarding indications, generic availability, and possible alternatives.

The claims professional can use this information when contacting the prescriber to determine if drugs on the list of alternatives have been tried. If the prescriber has attempted at least one of the other medications, the claims professional can feel more confident in approving the medication because the decision was supported with clinical evidence. If none of the alternative medications have been tried, the prescriber should be asked to consider trying one of the listed alternatives prior to prescribing the rejected medication.

Medications are listed alphabetically by generic name with the brand version beneath. This is modified from the industry standard of listing the brand version first to better reflect that the majority of drugs dispensed are now generic. The medication list, potential off-label uses, and possible alternatives are not exhaustive. Some drugs are listed as a One Drug Review candidate. This recommendation may change upon further review of an individual medication regimen.

The myMatrixx clinical team is available to answer questions related to a patient's medication regimen. In some instances, a recommendation may be made to conduct a One Drug Review or a more comprehensive Clinical and Safety Evaluation (CASE Rx)SM. Both of these products feature outreach to the prescriber to discuss the use of alternative medications and they may incur a charge.

This guide is not intended and should not be used or relied upon for the purposes of prescribing or using a product. It is solely for reference purposes. The trademarks and other product names listed in this guide are the property of their respective companies.

The myMatrixx clinical team is available to answer questions related to a patient's medication regimen.





Glossary Terms

Clinical and Safety Evaluation Rx (CASE Rx)SM

An intervention tool used by myMatrixx at the request of the claims professional. CASE RxSM is a prescriber clinical intervention program that aims to improve therapeutic outcomes by providing objective and evidence based assessments of prescription drug use by injured patients. This systematic review process ensures a comprehensive assessment. The program's primary focus is to identify and correct potential medication errors. Additionally, CASE RxSM identifies potentially inappropriate or inefficient use of medications. Lastly, specific recommendations are made for lower cost, yet equally effective alternatives when opportunities exists. A teleconference with a treating provider and a myMatrixx clinical pharmacist may be utilized to help drive implementation of the CASE RxSM interventions.

Clinical Message

A brief explanation describing the medication and its place in therapy along with guidance regarding preferred alternatives that should be considered prior to approval of the medication that requires prior authorization.

Drug Requiring Prior Authorization

The medication that rejects and generates a prior authorization rejection.

FDA and Off-Label Workers' Compensation Indications

Describes the most likely reason the medication is being used in the workers' compensation population. Includes the most commonly used FDA and off-label indications in workers' compensation.

Formulary

A list of medications that do not require prior authorization. Conversely, it may be a list of medications that always require prior authorization. The development of a formulary is based on evaluations of efficacy, safety and cost-effectiveness of drugs.

High Dollar Limit

A predetermined threshold established by the payer or insurance company. Any prescription exceeding this threshold will reject at the pharmacy point of sale and require prior authorization.

Intervention

The act of contacting the prescriber to obtain more information and to determine if a different medication that is more cost-effective or therapeutically appropriate could be prescribed instead of the medication that requires a prior authorization. This includes determining which medications have been tried previously and the reason(s) they were discontinued.



Glossary Terms

One Drug Review

An intervention tool used by myMatrixx at the request of the claims professional. The One Drug Review provides the prescriber with a more cost-effective or therapeutically appropriate drug that may be considered as an alternative to the medication in question, as well as the evidence-based clinical rationale to support the recommendation. One Drug Review findings and recommendations are first sent to the prescriber's office via fax. The document requests that the prescriber respond as to whether he or she agrees, disagrees, or will discuss alternative medications with the patient. The One Drug Review fax also provides a prescriber signature line and an area for the prescriber to comment.

Preferred Alternative Medication List

A list of preferred medications commonly used in workers' compensation. At least two medications on the alternative medication list (if available) should be tried and deemed unsuccessful before the rejected drug (non-preferred) is granted a prior authorization.

Prior Authorization

A review of a requested medication prior to dispensing. Prior authorization is a feature used by insurance companies and other payers to help ensure the appropriate use of selected prescription drugs. Prior authorization programs are designed to prevent improper prescribing or use of certain drugs that may not be the best choice for a health condition. When a medication requires a prior authorization, it will reject at the point of sale. The rejection allows the claims professional time to review the medication and the patient's medical history before deciding whether or not to approve the medication or, in some cases, requesting that the myMatrixx clinical team review the medication and medical history in order to perform an intervention.

Acetaminophen Tylenol®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Temporary relief of minor aches, pains, and headache; temporary reduction of fever
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic acetaminophen or NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	Recommended for treatment of acute pain, chronic pain and acute exacerbations of chronic pain.

Acetaminophen & Codeine Phosphate Tylenol® with Codeine	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Management of mild to moderate pain where treatment with an opioid is appropriate and for which alternative treatments are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, or acetaminophen w/ codeine
Clinical Message	Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. May be appropriate for short-term use to manage acute pain. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is considered a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Albuterol Sulfate ProAir [®] HFA, Proventil [®] HFA, Ventolin [®] HFA	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Treatment or prevention of bronchospasm in patients with reversible obstructive airway disease
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Work-related asthma
Preferred Alternative	Generic albuterol inhaler
Clinical Message	Recommend inhaled short-acting beta2-agonists as a first-line choice for asthma.

Almotriptan Malate Axert [®]	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura in adults and children ≥12 years of age
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Headaches
Preferred Alternative	Generic sumatriptan tablets
Clinical Message	Recommended for migraine sufferers. At marketed doses, all oral triptans (eg, sumatriptan, brand name Imitrex [®]) are effective and well tolerated. Differences among them are in general relatively small, but clinically relevant for individual patients. A poor response to one triptan does not predict a poor response to other agents in that class. Due to differences in cost, it is recommended to trial a preferred alternative first.

Drug	Alprazolam Xanax®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Treatment of generalized anxiety disorder, short-term anxiety, and anxiety associated with depression; treatment of panic disorder with or without agoraphobia
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Anxiety
Preferred Alternative	Generic alprazolam
Clinical Message	For treatment of anxiety in chronic pain, benzodiazepines are not recommended for longer than two weeks. Benzodiazepines are not recommended for treatment of acute or chronic pain.

Drug	Amitriptyline Hydrochloride Elavil®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Treatment of unipolar major depressive disorder
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Neuropathic pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic amitriptyline
Clinical Message	Amitriptyline is a tricyclic antidepressant. Tricyclics are generally considered a first-line agent for neuropathic pain unless they are ineffective, poorly tolerated, or contraindicated.

Drug	Amlodipine Besylate Norvasc®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Management of hypertension in adults and children ≥6 years of age; treatment of symptomatic chronic stable angina; treatment of confirmed or suspected vasospastic angina
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic amlodipine
Clinical Message	Appropriate medication for management of hypertension.

Drug	Amoxicillin Amoxil®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Various bacterial infections
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic amoxicillin
Clinical Message	Recommended as first-line treatment for cellulitis and other conditions.

Drug	Amoxicillin & Clavulanate Potassium Augmentin®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Various bacterial infections
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic amoxicillin/clavulanate
Clinical Message	Recommended as first-line treatment for bite wounds and other conditions.

Drug	Apixaban Eliquis®
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Treatment or prophylaxis of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism; to reduce risk of stroke and systemic embolism in patients with nonvalvular atrial fibrillation
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Post-operative anticoagulant
Preferred Alternative	Eliquis®, Pradaxa®, Savaysa®, Xarelto®
Clinical Message	Recommended as an oral anticoagulation treatment and prophylactic option for patients with or at risk for lower extremity venous thromboembolism (VTE).

Drug	Aripiprazole Abilify®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Major depressive disorder; schizophrenia; bipolar I disorder; Tourette disorder
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Add-on therapy with another antidepressant for depression caused by chronic pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic quetiapine, olanzapine, or risperidone
Clinical Message	Antipsychotics are first-line for treatment of schizophrenia. Usually in workers' compensation, aripiprazole is added as a supplementary agent if the primary agent is not achieving therapeutic expectations for the patient's depression. Because of these factors, as well as cost considerations, a preferred alternative medication should be tried prior to aripiprazole.

Drug	Armodafinil Nuvigil®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Narcolepsy; obstructive sleep apnea; shift-work sleep disorder
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Drowsiness resulting from use of sedating medications
Preferred Alternative	Generic armodafinil
Clinical Message	Not recommended solely to counteract sedation effects of narcotics until after first considering reducing excessive narcotic prescribing. Use with caution.

Drug	Atorvastatin Calcium Lipitor®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Treatment of high cholesterol; prevention of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic atorvastatin
Clinical Message	Appropriate first-line medication for management of high cholesterol.

Drug	Azithromycin Zithromax®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Various bacterial infections
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic azithromycin
Clinical Message	Recommended as first-line treatment for chronic bronchitis and other conditions.



Baclofen Lioresal [®] , Ozobax [®] Solution	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Tablets)
One Drug Review	Yes (Ozobax [®])
FDA Indication	Management of reversible spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis or spinal cord lesions
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Muscle spasm and/or musculoskeletal pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic baclofen, chlorzoxazone, cyclobenzaprine, metaxalone, methocarbamol, or tizanidine
Clinical Message	Muscle relaxants may be effective in reducing pain and muscle tension, and increasing mobility. However, efficacy appears to diminish over time, and prolonged use of some medications in this class may lead to dependence. Chronic use is not recommended.

Buprenorphine Butrans [®]	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxymorphone ER
Clinical Message	Butrans [®] may be recommended as an option for chronic pain in selected patient populations, e.g., patients with a hyperalgesic component to pain; patients with centrally-mediated pain; patients with neuropathic pain; patients at high risk of non-adherence with standard opioid maintenance; and patients who have previously been detoxified from other high-dose opioids. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is considered a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Drug	Buprenorphine Hydrochloride Belbuca®
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxymorphone ER
Clinical Message	Belbuca® may be recommended as an option for chronic pain in selected patient populations, e.g., patients with a hyperalgesic component to pain; patients with centrally-mediated pain; patients with neuropathic pain; patients at high risk of non-adherence with standard opioid maintenance; and patients who have previously been detoxified from other high-dose opioids. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is considered a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Drug	Buprenorphine Hydrochloride & Naloxone Hydrochloride Suboxone®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Treatment of opioid use disorder
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic buprenorphine & naloxone sublingual film
Clinical Message	Determine medical necessity and obtain documentation of opioid dependence along with time frame for tapering prior to approving.

Drug	Bupropion Hydrochloride Wellbutrin®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Major depressive disorder; seasonal affective disorder; smoking cessation
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Depression resulting from a work-related injury
Preferred Alternative	Generic bupropion
Clinical Message	Recommended as a first-line treatment option for major depressive disorder.

Drug	Butalbital, Acetaminophen & Caffeine Esgic®, Fioricet®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Relief of symptom complex of tension or muscle contraction headache
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Headaches
Preferred Alternative	Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, or sumatriptan
Clinical Message	Not recommended for chronic pain. Not recommended for tension and migraine headaches unless refractory and for short-term due to risk of abuse, dependence, and withdrawal.

Carisoprodol Soma®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Short-term (2 to 3 weeks) relief of discomfort associated with acute, painful musculoskeletal conditions in adults
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Muscle spasm and/or musculoskeletal pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic baclofen, chlorzoxazone, cyclobenzaprine, metaxalone, methocarbamol, or tizanidine
Clinical Message	Muscle relaxants are not indicated for long-term use. Muscle relaxants are considered a third-line option for the treatment of lower back pain and neuropathic pain. Carisoprodol is a Schedule IV drug and has been associated with abuse potential. Therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to its use.

Carvedilol Coreg® Tablet, Coreg CR® Extended-Release Capsule	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; hypertension; left ventricular dysfunction following myocardial infarction
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic carvedilol
Clinical Message	Carvedilol may be an appropriate medication for treatment of various cardiovascular conditions.

Celecoxib Celebrex® Capsule, Elyxyb™ Solution	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Celebrex® only)
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Celebrex®: acute pain; ankylosing spondylitis; juvenile idiopathic arthritis; osteoarthritis; primary dysmenorrhea; rheumatoid arthritis Elyxyb™: acute treatment of migraine with or without aura in adults
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic celecoxib, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	NSAIDs are generally considered to be first-line medications for the management of pain.

Cephalexin Keflex®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Various bacterial infections
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic cephalexin
Clinical Message	Recommended as first-line treatment for cellulitis and other conditions.

Chlorzoxazone Lorzone [®] , Parafon Forte [®]	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes (250 mg, 375 mg, & 750 mg tablet)
FDA Indication	Adjunct to rest, physical therapy, and other measures for the relief of discomfort associated with acute, painful musculoskeletal conditions
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Muscle spasm and/or musculoskeletal pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic chlorzoxazone 500 mg tablet, baclofen, cyclobenzaprine, metaxalone, methocarbamol, or tizanidine
Clinical Message	Muscle relaxants are not indicated for long-term use. Muscle relaxants are considered a third-line option for the treatment of lower back pain and neuropathic pain. Consider a preferred alternative prior to use.

Ciprofloxacin Hydrochloride Cipro [®]	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Various bacterial infections
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic ciprofloxacin
Clinical Message	Recommended as first-line treatment for diabetic foot infections, osteomyelitis, chronic bronchitis, and other conditions.

Clonazepam Klonopin®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Panic disorder; seizure disorders
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Anxiety
Preferred Alternative	Generic clonazepam
Clinical Message	For treatment of anxiety in chronic pain, benzodiazepines are not recommended for longer than two weeks. Benzodiazepines are not recommended for treatment of acute or chronic pain.

Cyclobenzaprine Hydrochloride Amrix® Extended-Release Capsule, Fexmid® Tablet, Flexeril® Tablet	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes (Amrix®)
FDA Indication	As an adjunct to rest and physical therapy for short-term (2 to 3 weeks) relief of muscle spasm associated with acute, painful musculoskeletal conditions
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Muscle spasm and/or musculoskeletal pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic cyclobenzaprine immediate-release, baclofen, chlorzoxazone, metaxalone, methocarbamol, or tizanidine
Clinical Message	Muscle relaxants are not indicated for long-term use; therefore, taking extended release capsules is not recommended. Muscle relaxants are considered a third-line option for the treatment of lower back pain and neuropathic pain. Consider an immediate-release preferred alternative prior to use.

Drug	Diazepam Valium®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Anxiety; muscle spasms; seizures; acute alcohol withdrawal
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Anxiety; muscle spasms
Preferred Alternative	Generic diazepam
Clinical Message	For treatment of anxiety in chronic pain, benzodiazepines are not recommended for longer than two weeks. Benzodiazepines are not recommended for treatment of acute or chronic pain.

Drug	Diclofenac Zorvolex®
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Management of mild to moderate acute pain; management of osteoarthritis pain
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic diclofenac sodium tablets, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, or naproxen)
Clinical Message	Not recommended as a first-line agent because of increased risk profile and cost; therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to use.

Diclofenac Epolamine Flector®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Topical treatment of acute pain due to minor strains, sprains, and contusions
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic diclofenac sodium topical gel 1%, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	Not recommended as a first-line treatment. The FDA-indication for use is as a treatment of acute strains, sprains, and contusions.

Diclofenac Potassium Cambia® Powder, Cataflam® Tablet, Lofena™ Tablet, Zipsor® Capsule	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Cambia® & Lofena™ only)
One Drug Review	Yes (Cambia®, Lofena™ & Zipsor®)
FDA Indication	Cambia®: acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura in adults Cataflam® & Lofena™: treatment of primary dysmenorrhea; relief of signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis; relief of mild to moderate pain; relief of signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis Zipsor®: relief of mild to moderate acute pain in adults
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic diclofenac sodium tablets, diclofenac potassium tablets, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	Not recommended as a first-line agent because of increased risk profile and cost; therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to use.

Drug	Diclofenac Sodium Gel Solaraze® 3%, Voltaren® 1%
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes (Solaraze®)
FDA Indication	Solaraze®: topical treatment of actinic keratosis Voltaren®: relief of the pain of osteoarthritis of joints amenable to topical treatment, such as the knees and those of the hands
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Topical treatment of joint pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic diclofenac sodium topical gel 1%, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	1% gel is recommended as a first-line treatment for relief of osteoarthritis pain in a joint that lends itself to topical treatment (ankle, elbow, foot, hand, knee, and wrist). 3% gel is not recommended due to not being indicated for treating pain and cost.

Drug	Diclofenac Sodium Topical Solution Pennsaid®
Generic Availability	Yes (1.5% only)
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Treatment of the pain of osteoarthritis of the knee(s)
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic diclofenac sodium solution 1.5%, diclofenac sodium topical gel 1%, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	1.5% solution is recommended as an option for patients at risk of adverse effects from oral NSAIDs. 2% solution is not recommended as a first-line agent because of cost. Consider a preferred alternative prior to use.

Docusate Sodium Colace®, Dulcolax® Capsule	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Stool softener
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Opioid-induced constipation
Preferred Alternative	Generic docusate sodium
Clinical Message	Preferred first-line medication for management of opioid-induced constipation.

Doxycycline Morgidox®, Vibramycin®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Various bacterial infections
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic doxycycline
Clinical Message	Recommended as 1st-line treatment for cellulitis and other drug sensitive conditions.



Duloxetine Hydrochloride Cymbalta®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Fibromyalgia; generalized anxiety disorder; major depressive disorder; chronic musculoskeletal pain; neuropathic pain associated with diabetes mellitus
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Neuropathic pain; chronic pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic duloxetine
Clinical Message	Recommended as an option in first-line treatment of neuropathic pain, especially if pain is accompanied by depression.

Eletriptan Hydrobromide Relpax®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Acute treatment of migraine with or without aura in adults
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Headaches
Preferred Alternative	Generic sumatriptan tablets
Clinical Message	Recommended for migraine sufferers. At marketed doses, all oral triptans (eg, sumatriptan, brand name Imitrex®) are effective and well tolerated. Differences among them are in general relatively small, but clinically relevant for individual patients. A poor response to one triptan does not predict a poor response to other agents in that class. Due to differences in cost, it is recommended to trial a preferred alternative first.

Drug	Emtricitabine & Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate Truvada®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	HIV infection
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), e.g., needlesticks
Preferred Alternative	Generic emtricitabine & tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
Clinical Message	This is considered first-line therapy for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), e.g., needlesticks, in combination with Isentress®.

Drug	Enoxaparin Sodium Lovenox®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Acute coronary syndromes; deep vein thrombosis treatment; venous thromboembolism prophylaxis
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Peri-operative anticoagulant
Preferred Alternative	Generic enoxaparin
Clinical Message	Recommended for patients who are at higher risk of developing venous thrombosis. Recommended as an anticoagulation treatment option for patients with venous thromboembolisms (VTEs) of the leg.

Escitalopram Oxalate Lexapro®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Major depressive disorder; generalized anxiety disorder
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic escitalopram
Clinical Message	Not recommended as a treatment for chronic pain, but SSRIs may have a role in treating secondary depression.

Esomeprazole Nexium®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Gastroesophageal reflux disease; heartburn; risk reduction of NSAID-associated gastric ulcer
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Stomach ulcer prevention when taking NSAIDs chronically
Preferred Alternative	OTC esomeprazole and omeprazole or generic omeprazole
Clinical Message	Recommended for reducing the risk of stomach ulcers in patients taking NSAIDs; OTC formulations are more accessible and economical than prescription PPIs.

Drug	Eszopiclone Lunesta®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Treatment of insomnia
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Insomnia secondary to work-related injury
Preferred Alternative	Generic zolpidem tartrate
Clinical Message	Not recommended for long-term use, but recommended for short-term use.

Drug	Etodolac Lodine®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Management of acute pain; relief of the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and juvenile arthritis
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic etodolac, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	NSAIDs are generally considered to be first-line medications for the management of pain.

Drug	Ezetimibe Zetia®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	High cholesterol in combination with a statin
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic ezetimibe
Clinical Message	May be appropriate for lowering high cholesterol in patients already taking or intolerant to a statin medication.

Drug	Famotidine Pepcid®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Gastroesophageal reflux disease; heartburn; peptic ulcer disease
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Stomach ulcer prevention when taking NSAIDs chronically
Preferred Alternative	Generic famotidine
Clinical Message	Appropriate for reducing the risk of stomach ulcers in patients taking NSAIDs.

Drug	Fenoprofen Calcium Fenortho™, Nalfon®
Generic Availability	Yes (600 mg only)
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Relief of mild to moderate pain; osteoarthritis; rheumatoid arthritis
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic fenoprofen 600 mg, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	NSAIDs are generally considered to be first-line medications for the management of pain. Due to the higher relative cost of 200 mg and 400 mg strengths, a preferred alternative is recommended prior to use.

Drug	Fentanyl Duragesic® Transdermal Patch
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Management of pain in opioid-tolerant patients severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic fentanyl patch, morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, or oxymorphone ER
Clinical Message	Use of long-acting opioids is only recommended if there is evidence of improvement in function and quality of life with use of short-acting opioids. The primary difference between long-acting opioids is cost; therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to use. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Fentanyl Subsys® Sublingual Spray	
Drug	
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Management of breakthrough cancer pain in opioid-tolerant patients who are already receiving and who are tolerant to around-the-clock opioid therapy for their underlying persistent cancer pain
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Breakthrough pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, ramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, or morphine immediate-release
Clinical Message	Considered inappropriate therapy for workers' compensation unless cancer pain resulted from compensable injury. Not recommended for chronic non-cancer pain. Determine medical necessity prior to approval.

Fentanyl Citrate Actiq® Buccal Lollipop, Fentora® Buccal Tablet, Lazanda™ Nasal Spray	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Actiq® only)
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Management of breakthrough cancer pain in opioid-tolerant patients who are already receiving and who are tolerant to around-the-clock opioid therapy for their underlying persistent cancer pain
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Breakthrough pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, ramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, or morphine immediate-release
Clinical Message	Considered inappropriate therapy for workers' compensation unless cancer pain resulted from compensable injury. Not recommended for chronic non-cancer pain. Determine medical necessity prior to approval.

Drug	Fluoxetine Hydrochloride Prozac®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Bipolar major depression; bulimia nervosa; major depressive disorder; obsessive-compulsive disorder; panic disorder; treatment-resistant depression
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Depression resulting from a work-related injury
Preferred Alternative	Generic fluoxetine
Clinical Message	Not recommended as a treatment for chronic pain, but SSRIs may have a role in treating secondary depression.

Drug	Frovatriptan Succinate Frova®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Acute treatment of migraine with or without aura in adults
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Headaches
Preferred Alternative	Generic sumatriptan tablets
Clinical Message	Recommended for migraine sufferers. At marketed doses, all oral triptans (eg, sumatriptan, brand name Imitrex®) are effective and well tolerated. Differences among them are in general relatively small, but clinically relevant for individual patients. A poor response to one triptan does not predict a poor response to other agents in that class. Due to differences in cost, it is recommended to trial a preferred alternative first.

Gabapentin Gralise®, Neurontin®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Neurontin® only)
One Drug Review	Yes (Gralise®)
FDA Indication	Gralise®: postherpetic neuralgia Neurontin®: postherpetic neuralgia; partial onset seizures
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Neuropathic pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic gabapentin or pregabalin
Clinical Message	Neurontin® is generally regarded as a first-line medication for the management of neuropathic pain. Due to cost, Gralise® is not recommended as a first-line agent for neuropathic pain without first trying a preferred alternative.

Gabapentin Enacarbil Horizant®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Postherpetic neuralgia; restless legs syndrome
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Neuropathic pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic gabapentin or pregabalin
Clinical Message	Not recommended for neuropathic pain other than for that related to postherpetic neuralgia. Any consideration of use of this drug for other neuropathic pain conditions should include (1) evidence of a positive response to immediate release gabapentin, and (2) documentation of necessity to switch to the once a day formulation (including that the patient does not require multiple dosing regimens for other required pain meds).

Drug	Hydrochlorothiazide Microzide®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Management of mild to moderate hypertension
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic hydrochlorothiazide
Clinical Message	Appropriate medication for management of hypertension.

Drug	Hydrocodone Bitartrate Hysingla™ ER Tablet, Zohydro™ ER Capsule
Generic Availability	Yes (Hysingla™ only)
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxymorphone ER
Clinical Message	Use of long-acting opioids is only recommended if there is evidence of improvement in function and quality of life with use of short-acting opioids. The primary difference between long-acting opioids is cost; therefore, a preferred alternative should be considered prior to use. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is considered a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Drug**Hydrocodone Bitartrate & Acetaminophen**
Norco®, Vicodin®

Generic Availability

Yes

One Drug Review

No

FDA Indication

Management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate

Off-Label Use/Potential
Workers' Compensation
Indication

Same as FDA

Preferred Alternative

Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, tramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, or morphine immediate-release

Clinical Message

Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. May be appropriate for short-term use to manage acute pain. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is considered a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.



Drug**Hydromorphone Hydrochloride**

Dilaudid® Tablet, Exalgo® ER Tablet

Generic Availability

Yes

One Drug Review

No

FDA Indication

Dilaudid®: management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate

Exalgo®: management of pain in opioid-tolerant patients severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate

Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication

Same as FDA

Preferred Alternative

Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, tramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, or morphine immediate-release; generic morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxycodone ER

Clinical Message

Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. May be appropriate for short-term use to manage acute pain.

Use of long-acting opioids is only recommended if there is evidence of improvement in function and quality of life with use of short-acting opioids. The primary difference between long-acting opioids is cost; therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to use.

Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Hydroxyzine Vistaril®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Symptomatic relief of anxiety and tension associated with psychoneurosis; adjunct in organic disease states in which anxiety is manifested; management of pruritus due to allergic conditions
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Anxiety
Preferred Alternative	Generic hydroxyzine
Clinical Message	May be appropriate for symptomatic management of anxiety. Its effectiveness as an antianxiety agent for longer than four months has not been assessed by clinical trials. Therefore, the physician should periodically reassess the usefulness of the drug for the individual patient.

Ibuprofen Advil®, Motrin®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Relief of mild-to-moderate pain; relief of the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis; treatment of primary dysmenorrhea
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic ibuprofen, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. naproxen)
Clinical Message	NSAIDs are generally considered to be first-line medications for the management of pain.

Drug	Ibuprofen & Famotidine Duexis®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Relief of signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and to decrease the risk of developing upper GI ulcers
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) for mild to moderate pain and NSAID-induced gastric ulcer prophylaxis combination
Preferred Alternative	Generic ibuprofen and famotidine taken separately
Clinical Message	Not recommended as a first-line drug. Ibuprofen and famotidine are also available in multiple strengths OTC, and other strategies are recommended to prevent stomach ulcers in patients taking NSAIDs. With less benefit and higher cost, using Duexis® as a first-line therapy is rarely justified.

Drug	Ketorolac Tromethamine Sprix® Nasal Spray, Toradol® Tablet
Generic Availability	Yes (Toradol® only)
One Drug Review	Yes (Sprix®)
FDA Indication	Short-term (up to 5 days) management of moderate to moderately severe pain in adults that requires analgesia at the opioid level
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic ketorolac, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	Not recommended as a first-line medication for chronic pain; however, if it is prescribed, it should not exceed 5 days.

Lanzoprazole Prevacid®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Duodenal ulcer; erosive esophagitis; gastric ulcer; gastroesophageal reflux disease; heartburn; NSAID-associated gastric ulcer; pathological hypersecretory conditions
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Stomach ulcer prevention when taking NSAIDs chronically
Preferred Alternative	Generic lanzoprazole, omeprazole, or esomeprazole
Clinical Message	Recommended for reducing the risk of stomach ulcers in patients taking NSAIDs; OTC formulations are more accessible and economical than prescription PPIs.

Levorphanol Tartrate Levo-Dromoran®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, tramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, or morphine immediate-release
Clinical Message	Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is considered a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered. Due to high cost, trial with a preferred alternative is recommended prior to use.

Lidocaine Aspercreme® 4%, Lidoderm® 5%, ZTlido™ 1.8%	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Lidoderm® & various 4% patches only)
One Drug Review	Yes (Lidoderm® & ZTlido™)
FDA Indication	Relief of pain associated with post-herpetic neuralgia
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Neuropathic pain
Preferred Alternative	OTC lidocaine 4% transdermal patch (Aspercreme®, Salonpas®, others)
Clinical Message	Topical lidocaine is recommended as a second-line therapy for neuropathic pain. Consider a preferred alternative prior to use.

Lisinopril Prinivil®, Zestril®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; hypertension; ST-elevation myocardial infarction
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic lisinopril
Clinical Message	Appropriate medication for management of hypertension.

Lorazepam Ativan® Tablet, Loreev XR® Extended-Release Capsule	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Ativan® only)
One Drug Review	Yes (Loreev XR®)
FDA Indication	Management of anxiety disorders or short-term (≤4 months) relief of anxiety
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic lorazepam
Clinical Message	For treatment of anxiety in chronic pain, benzodiazepines are not recommended for longer than two weeks. Benzodiazepines are not recommended for treatment of acute or chronic pain.

Losartan Potassium Cozaar®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Hypertension; diabetic proteinuric chronic kidney disease
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic losartan
Clinical Message	Appropriate medication for management of hypertension.

Lubiprostone Amitiza®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Opioid-induced constipation; chronic idiopathic constipation; irritable bowel syndrome with constipation
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Opioid-induced constipation
Preferred Alternative	Osmotic laxatives (MiraLax®, lactulose, Milk of Magnesia) or stimulant laxatives (Senna and Senna Plus)
Clinical Message	Recommended only as a possible second-line treatment for opioid-induced constipation.

Meloxicam Mobic® Tablet, Qmiiz™ ODT, Vivlodex® Capsule	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Mobic® & Vivlodex® only)
One Drug Review	Yes (Qmiiz™ & Vivlodex®)
FDA Indication	Relief of the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis; management of osteoarthritis pain
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic meloxicam tablets, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	NSAIDs are generally considered to be first-line medications for the management of pain. Due to cost, Vivlodex® and Qmiiz™ are not recommended over the tablet formulation of meloxicam as a first-line choice. Therefore, consider preferred alternative prior to use.

Drug	Metaxalone Skelaxin®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Relief of discomforts associated with acute, painful musculoskeletal conditions
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Muscle spasm and/or musculoskeletal pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic baclofen, chlorzoxazone, cyclobenzaprine, metaxalone, methocarbamol, or tizanidine
Clinical Message	Muscle relaxants may be effective in reducing pain and muscle tension, and increasing mobility. However, efficacy appears to diminish over time, and prolonged use of some medications in this class may lead to dependence. Chronic use is not recommended.

Drug**Methadone Hydrochloride**
Dolophine®

Generic Availability

Yes

One Drug Review

No

FDA Indication

Management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate; medically supervised withdrawal and maintenance treatment of opioid use disorder, in conjunction with appropriate social and medical services

Off-Label Use/Potential
Workers' Compensation
Indication

Same as FDA

Preferred Alternative

Generic methadone, morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxycodone ER

Clinical Message

Use of long-acting opioids is only recommended if there is evidence of improvement in function and quality of life with use of short-acting opioids. The primary difference between long-acting opioids is cost; therefore, a preferred alternative should be considered prior to use. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is considered a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.



Drug	Methocarbamol Robaxin®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Adjunctive treatment of muscle spasm associated with acute painful musculoskeletal conditions
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Muscle spasm and/or musculoskeletal pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic baclofen, chlorzoxazone, cyclobenzaprine, metaxalone, methocarbamol, or tizanidine
Clinical Message	Muscle relaxants may be effective in reducing pain and muscle tension, and increasing mobility. However, efficacy appears to diminish over time, and prolonged use of some medications in this class may lead to dependence. Chronic use is not recommended.

Drug	Methylprednisolone Medrol®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressant agent in the treatment of a variety of diseases
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute inflammation
Preferred Alternative	Generic methylprednisolone
Clinical Message	Recommended for management of acute inflammation only.

Drug	Methylnaltrexone Bromide Relistor®
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Opioid-induced constipation with chronic non-cancer pain
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Osmotic laxatives (MiraLax®, lactulose, Milk of Magnesia), stimulant laxatives (Senna and Senna Plus), or OIC laxatives (Amitiza®, Symproic®, Movantik®)
Clinical Message	Recommended only as a possible second-line treatment for opioid-induced constipation.

Drug	Metoprolol Succinate Toprol-XL®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Hypertension; angina pectoris; heart failure
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic metoprolol succinate
Clinical Message	Metoprolol may be an appropriate medication for treatment of various cardiovascular conditions.

Drug	Metoprolol Tartrate Lopressor®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Hypertension; angina pectoris; myocardial infarction
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic metoprolol tartrate
Clinical Message	Metoprolol may be an appropriate medication for treatment of various cardiovascular conditions.

Drug	Modafinil Provigil®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Narcolepsy; obstructive sleep apnea; shift-work sleep disorder
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Drowsiness resulting from use of sedating medications
Preferred Alternative	Generic armodafinil
Clinical Message	Not recommended solely to counteract sedation effects of narcotics until after first considering reducing excessive narcotic prescribing. Use with caution.

Drug**Montelukast Sodium**
Singulair®

Generic Availability

Yes

One Drug Review

No

FDA Indication

Relief of symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis in adults and pediatric patients ≥ 2 years of age and perennial allergic rhinitis in adults and pediatric patients ≥ 6 months of ageOff-Label Use/Potential
Workers' Compensation
Indication

Work-related asthma

Preferred Alternative

Generic montelukast sodium

Clinical Message

Recommended as an adjunct for asthma and recommended for sinus disorders as second-line. Not recommended for allergic rhinitis.



Drug	Morphine Sulfate Arymo® ER Tablet, Kadian® ER Capsule, MS Contin® ER Tablet, MSIR® Tablet
Generic Availability	Yes (except Arymo®)
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	MSIR®: management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate Arymo®, Kadian®, MS Contin®: management of pain severe enough to require daily around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, tramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, or morphine immediate-release; generic morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxymorphone ER
Clinical Message	Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. May be appropriate for short-term use to manage acute pain. Use of long-acting opioids is only recommended if there is evidence of improvement in function and quality of life with use of short-acting opioids. The primary difference between long-acting opioids is cost; therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to use. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Drug	Nabumetone Relafen [®] , Relafen [™] DS
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes (Relafen [™] DS)
FDA Indication	Relief of signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic nabumetone, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	NSAIDs are generally considered to be first-line medications for the management of pain.

Drug	Naldemedine Symproic [®]
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Treatment of opioid-induced constipation in adults with chronic non-cancer pain
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Osmotic laxatives (MiraLax [®] , lactulose, Milk of Magnesia) or stimulant laxatives (Senna and Senna Plus)
Clinical Message	Recommended only as a possible second-line treatment for opioid-induced constipation.

Naloxegol Oxalate Movantik®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Treatment of opioid-induced constipation in adults with chronic non-cancer pain
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Osmotic laxatives (MiraLax®, lactulose, Milk of Magnesia) or stimulant laxatives (Senna and Senna Plus)
Clinical Message	Recommended only as a possible second-line treatment for opioid-induced constipation.

Naloxone Hydrochloride Kloxxado™ Nasal Spray, Narcan® Nasal Spray	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Narcan® only)
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose, as manifested by respiratory and/or central nervous system depression
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Narcan® Nasal Spray
Clinical Message	Recommended as a first-line treatment of opioid overdose.

Naproxen EC-Naprosyn®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Relief of signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, and polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis; relief of signs and symptoms of tendonitis, bursitis, and acute gout; management of pain and primary dysmenorrhea
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic naproxen, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen)
Clinical Message	NSAIDs are generally considered to be first-line medications for the management of pain.

Naproxen & Esomeprazole Magnesium Vimovo®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Reduction of the risk of NSAID-associated gastric ulcers in patients at risk of developing gastric ulcers who require an NSAID for the relief of signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, and juvenile idiopathic arthritis
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) for mild to moderate pain and NSAID-induced gastric ulcer prophylaxis combination
Preferred Alternative	Generic naproxen with esomeprazole or omeprazole taken separately
Clinical Message	Not recommended as a first-line therapy because of high cost. A trial of omeprazole and naproxen or a similar combination is recommended before Vimovo® therapy.

Drug	Naproxen Sodium Aleve®, Anaprox®, Naprelan® Extended-Release Tablet
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes (Naprelan®)
FDA Indication	Relief of signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, and polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis; relief of signs and symptoms of tendonitis, bursitis, and acute gout; management of pain and primary dysmenorrhea
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic naproxen, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen)
Clinical Message	Naproxen sodium extended-release is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) for the relief of pain and the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis. Not recommended as a first-line agent for acute pain due to high cost relative to other naproxen formulations. Consider preferred alternative prior to use.



Drug	Naratriptan Amerge®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura in adults
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Headaches
Preferred Alternative	Generic sumatriptan tablets
Clinical Message	Recommended for migraine sufferers. At marketed doses, all oral triptans (eg, sumatriptan, brand name Imitrex®) are effective and well tolerated. Differences among them are in general relatively small, but clinically relevant for individual patients. A poor response to one triptan does not predict a poor response to other agents in that class. Due to differences in cost, it is recommended to trial a preferred alternative first.

Drug	Nortriptyline Pamelor®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Treatment of symptoms of unipolar major depression
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Neuropathic pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic nortriptyline or amitriptyline
Clinical Message	Nortriptyline is a tricyclic antidepressant. Tricyclics are generally considered a first-line agent unless they are ineffective, poorly tolerated, or contraindicated.

Omeprazole Magnesium Prilosec®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Treatment of erosive esophagitis; maintenance healing of erosive esophagitis; symptomatic gastroesophageal reflux disease
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Stomach ulcer prevention when taking NSAIDs chronically
Preferred Alternative	Generic omeprazole
Clinical Message	Recommended for reducing the risk of stomach ulcers in patients taking NSAIDs; OTC formulations are more accessible and economical than prescription PPIs.

Ondansetron Zofran ODT®, Zuplenz®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Zofran ODT® only)
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Cancer chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting; postoperative nausea and/or vomiting; radiotherapy-associated nausea and vomiting
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Opioid-induced nausea and vomiting; post-surgery nausea and vomiting
Preferred Alternative	Generic promethazine or meclizine
Clinical Message	Not recommended for nausea and vomiting secondary to chronic opioid use unless tried and failed a preferred alternative prior to use. May be appropriate for post-surgery nausea and vomiting.

Ondansetron Hydrochloride Zofran® Tablet	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Cancer chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting; postoperative nausea and/or vomiting; radiotherapy-associated nausea and vomiting
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Opioid-induced nausea and vomiting; post-surgery nausea and vomiting
Preferred Alternative	Generic promethazine or meclizine
Clinical Message	Not recommended for nausea and vomiting secondary to chronic opioid use unless tried and failed a preferred alternative prior to use. May be appropriate for post-surgery nausea and vomiting.

Oxaprozin Daypro®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Relief of the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic oxaprozin, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	NSAIDs are generally considered to be first-line medications for the management of pain.

Drug	Oxycodone Xtampza™ ER Capsule
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Management of pain severe enough to require daily, around -the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxymorphone ER
Clinical Message	Use of long-acting opioids is only recommended if there is evidence of improvement in function and quality of life with use of short-acting opioids. The primary difference between long-acting opioids is cost; therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to use. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.



Drug**Oxycodone Hydrochloride**Oxaydo[®], OxyContin[®], Roxicodone[®]

Generic Availability

Yes (Roxicodone[®] only)

One Drug Review

Yes (Oxaydo[®])

FDA Indication

Oxaydo[®], Roxicodone[®]: management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate

OxyContin[®]: management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate

Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication

Same as FDA

Preferred Alternative

Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, tramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, or morphine immediate-release; generic morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxymorphone ER

Clinical Message

Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. May be appropriate for short-term use to manage acute pain.

Use of long-acting opioids is only recommended if there is evidence of improvement in function and quality of life with use of short-acting opioids. The primary difference between long-acting opioids is cost; therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to use.

Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Drug	Oxycodone Hydrochloride & Acetaminophen Percocet®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, tramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, oxycodone, oxycodone w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, or morphine immediate-release
Clinical Message	Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. May be appropriate for short-term use to manage acute pain. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is considered a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.



Drug	Oxymorphone Hydrochloride Opana [®] , Opana [®] ER
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Opana[®]: management of acute pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate Opana[®] ER: management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, tramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, oxymorphone, or morphine immediate-release; generic morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxymorphone ER
Clinical Message	Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. May be appropriate for short-term use to manage acute pain. Use of long-acting opioids is only recommended if there is evidence of improvement in function and quality of life with use of short-acting opioids. The primary difference between long-acting opioids is cost; therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to use. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Drug	Pantoprazole Sodium Protonix®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Gastroesophageal reflux disease; Zollinger-Ellison syndrome
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Stomach ulcer prevention when taking NSAIDs chronically
Preferred Alternative	Generic pantoprazole, omeprazole, or esomeprazole
Clinical Message	Recommended for reducing the risk of stomach ulcers in patients taking NSAIDs; OTC formulations are more accessible and economical than prescription PPIs.

Drug	Piroxicam Feldene®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Relief of signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic piroxicam, acetaminophen, or other NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen)
Clinical Message	NSAIDs are generally considered to be first-line medications for the management of pain.

Drug	Prednisone Deltasone®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Anti-inflammatory or immunosuppressant agent in the treatment of a variety of diseases
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Acute inflammation
Preferred Alternative	Generic prednisone
Clinical Message	Recommended for management of acute inflammation only.

Drug	Pregabalin Lyrica® Capsule, Lyrica® CR Tablet
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Lyrica®: neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy; postherpetic neuralgia; fibromyalgia; neuropathic pain associated with spinal cord injury; partial onset seizures Lyrica® CR: neuropathic pain associated with diabetic peripheral neuropathy; postherpetic neuralgia
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Neuropathic pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic gabapentin or pregabalin
Clinical Message	Pregabalin is a first-line therapy for neuropathic pain, based on support from evidence-based guidelines that considered clinical efficacy, adverse effects, impact on health-related quality of life, convenience, and cost. Consider generic gabapentin or pregabalin prior to Lyrica® CR.

Promethazine Hydrochloride Phenergan®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Treatment of allergic conditions, motion sickness, nausea and vomiting, and for sedation
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Opioid-induced nausea and vomiting; post-surgery nausea and vomiting
Preferred Alternative	Generic promethazine
Clinical Message	Appropriate medication for patients experiencing nausea following surgery or while using certain medications such as opioids.

Rabeprazole Sodium AcipHex®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Duodenal ulcers; gastroesophageal reflux disease; pathological hypersecretory conditions
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Stomach ulcer prevention when taking NSAIDs chronically
Preferred Alternative	Generic rabeprazole, omeprazole, or esomeprazole
Clinical Message	Recommended for reducing the risk of stomach ulcers in patients taking NSAIDs; OTC formulations are more accessible and economical than prescription PPIs.

Drug	Raltegravir Potassium Isentress®
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	HIV infection
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), e.g., needlesticks
Preferred Alternative	Isentress®
Clinical Message	This is considered first-line therapy for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), e.g., needlesticks, in combination with Truvada®.

Drug	Rivaroxaban Xarelto®
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Nonvalvular atrial fibrillation; coronary artery disease or peripheral artery disease; indefinite anticoagulation; venous thromboembolism
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Post-operative anticoagulant
Preferred Alternative	Eliquis®, Pradaxa®, Savaysa®, Xarelto®
Clinical Message	Recommended as an oral anticoagulation treatment and prophylactic option for patients with or at risk for lower extremity venous thromboembolism (VTE).

Drug	Rizatriptan Benzoate Maxalt®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	For the acute treatment of migraine with or without aura
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Headaches
Preferred Alternative	Generic sumatriptan tablets
Clinical Message	Recommended for migraine sufferers. At marketed doses, all oral triptans (eg, sumatriptan, brand name Imitrex®) are effective and well tolerated. Differences among them are in general relatively small, but clinically relevant for individual patients. A poor response to one triptan does not predict a poor response to other agents in that class. Due to differences in cost, it is recommended to trial a preferred alternative first.

Drug	Rosuvastatin Calcium Crestor®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	High cholesterol; prevention of cardiovascular disease
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic rosuvastatin
Clinical Message	Appropriate first-line medication for management of high cholesterol.

Drug	Sertraline Hydrochloride Zoloft®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Major depressive disorder; obsessive-compulsive disorder; panic disorder; premenstrual dysphoric disorder; post-traumatic stress disorder; social anxiety disorder
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Depression resulting from a work-related injury
Preferred Alternative	Generic sertraline
Clinical Message	Not recommended as a treatment for chronic pain, but SSRIs may have a role in treating secondary depression.

Drug	Sulfamethoxazole & Trimethoprim Bactrim®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Various bacterial infections
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic sulfamethoxazole & trimethoprim
Clinical Message	Recommended as first-line treatment for diabetic foot infections, osteomyelitis, chronic bronchitis, and cellulitis.

Sumatriptan Imitrex® Nasal Spray, Tosymra™ Nasal Spray	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Imitrex® only)
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Acute treatment of migraine with or without aura in adults
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Headaches
Preferred Alternative	Generic sumatriptan tablets
Clinical Message	Recommended for migraine sufferers. At marketed doses, all oral triptans (eg, sumatriptan, brand name Imitrex®) are effective and well tolerated. Differences among them are in general relatively small, but clinically relevant for individual patients. A poor response to one triptan does not predict a poor response to other agents in that class. Due to differences in cost, it is recommended to trial a preferred alternative first.

Sumatriptan Succinate Imitrex® Tablet, Onzetra® Xsail® Nasal Powder, Sumavel® DosePro® Injection, Zembrace® Symtouch® Injection	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Imitrex® only)
One Drug Review	Yes (Onzetra®, Sumavel®, Zembrace®)
FDA Indication	Acute treatment of migraine with or without aura in adults
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Headaches
Preferred Alternative	Generic sumatriptan tablets
Clinical Message	Recommended for migraine sufferers. At marketed doses, all oral triptans (eg, sumatriptan, brand name Imitrex®) are effective and well tolerated. Differences among them are in general relatively small, but clinically relevant for individual patients. A poor response to one triptan does not predict a poor response to other agents in that class. Due to differences in cost, it is recommended to trial a preferred alternative first.

Drug**Sumatriptan Succinate & Naproxen Sodium**
Treximet®

Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Headaches
Preferred Alternative	Generic naproxen and sumatriptan taken separately
Clinical Message	Not recommended as a first-line therapy because of high cost. A trial of sumatriptan and naproxen taken separately or a similar combination is recommended before Treximet® therapy.



Drug	Tapentadol Hydrochloride Nucynta [®] , Nucynta [®] ER
Generic Availability	No
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Nucynta[®]: management of acute pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate Nucynta[®] ER: management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long-term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, tramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, or morphine immediate-release; generic morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxymorphone ER
Clinical Message	Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. May be appropriate for short-term use to manage acute pain. Use of long-acting opioids is only recommended if there is evidence of improvement in function and quality of life with use of short-acting opioids. The primary difference between long-acting opioids is cost; therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to use. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Drug	Tizanidine Hydrochloride Zanaflex®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Management of spasticity
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Muscle spasm and/or musculoskeletal pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic baclofen, chlorzoxazone, cyclobenzaprine, metaxalone, methocarbamol, or tizanidine
Clinical Message	Muscle relaxants may be effective in reducing pain and muscle tension, and increasing mobility. However, efficacy appears to diminish over time, and prolonged use of some medications in this class may lead to dependence. Chronic use is not recommended.

Drug	Topiramate Topamax®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Migraine prevention; seizures
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Neuropathic pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic amitriptyline, nortriptyline, gabapentin, or pregabalin
Clinical Message	Topiramate has been shown to have variable efficacy, with failure to demonstrate efficacy in neuropathic pain of central etiology. It is still considered for use for neuropathic pain when other anticonvulsants fail. Topiramate is FDA approved for migraine headache prophylaxis.

Tramadol Hydrochloride

ConZip® Extended-Release Capsule, Ultram® Tablet, Ultram®ER Tablet®

Drug

Generic Availability Yes (Ultram® & Ultram® ER only)

One Drug Review Yes (ConZip®)

FDA Indication Ultram®: management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate

ConZip®, Ultram® ER: management of pain severe enough to require daily, around-the-clock, long term opioid treatment and for which alternative treatment options are inadequate

Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication Same as FDA

Preferred Alternative Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, tramadol, tramadol w/ acetaminophen, hydrocodone w/ acetaminophen, or morphine immediate-release; generic morphine sulfate ER, tramadol ER, fentanyl patch, or oxymorphone ER

Clinical Message Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. May be appropriate for short-term use to manage acute pain.

Use of long-acting opioids is only recommended if there is evidence of improvement in function and quality of life with use of short-acting opioids. The primary difference between long-acting opioids is cost; therefore, consider a preferred alternative prior to use.

Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Drug	Tramadol Hydrochloride & Acetaminophen Ultracet®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Management of pain severe enough to require an opioid analgesic and for which alternative treatments are inadequate
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Same as FDA
Preferred Alternative	Generic NSAIDs (ex. ibuprofen, naproxen), acetaminophen, tramadol, or tramadol w/ acetaminophen
Clinical Message	Chronic use of opioid analgesics is not recommended. May be appropriate for short-term use to manage acute pain. Morphine equivalent dose (MED) of 100 mg or greater per day is considered a high risk to patient safety and clinical review should be considered.

Drug	Trazodone Hydrochloride Desyrel®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Treatment of unipolar major depressive disorder
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Insomnia secondary to work-related injury
Preferred Alternative	Generic trazodone
Clinical Message	Recommended as an option for primary or secondary insomnia, especially when associated with depression or dementia. Not recommended as a first-line treatment for depression or pain.

Drug	Venlafaxine Hydrochloride Effexor®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Generalized anxiety disorder; major depressive disorder; panic disorder; social anxiety disorder
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Neuropathic pain
Preferred Alternative	Generic venlafaxine or duloxetine
Clinical Message	Recommended as an option in first-line treatment of neuropathic pain.

Drug	Zaleplon Sonata®
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	No
FDA Indication	Short-term treatment of insomnia (ie, up to 30 days)
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Insomnia secondary to work-related injury
Preferred Alternative	Generic zaleplon or zolpidem
Clinical Message	Not recommended for long-term use, but recommended for short-term use.

Zolmitriptan Zomig®	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes
One Drug Review	Yes
FDA Indication	Acute treatment of migraine with or without aura in adults
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Headaches
Preferred Alternative	Generic sumatriptan tablets
Clinical Message	Recommended for migraine sufferers. At marketed doses, all oral triptans (eg, sumatriptan, brand name Imitrex®) are effective and well tolerated. Differences among them are in general relatively small, but clinically relevant for individual patients. A poor response to one triptan does not predict a poor response to other agents in that class. Due to differences in cost, it is recommended to trial a preferred alternative first.

Zolpidem Tartrate Ambien® Tablet, Ambien CR® Extended-Release Tablet, Edluar® Sublingual Tablet, Zolpimist™ Oral Spray	
Drug	
Generic Availability	Yes (Ambien® & Ambien CR® only)
One Drug Review	Yes (Edluar® & Zolpimist®)
FDA Indication	Ambien®, Edluar®, Zolpimist®: short-term treatment of insomnia with difficulty of sleep onset Ambien CR®: treatment of insomnia with difficulty of sleep onset and/or sleep maintenance
Off-Label Use/Potential Workers' Compensation Indication	Insomnia secondary to work-related injury
Preferred Alternative	Generic zolpidem tartrate tablets
Clinical Message	Zolpidem is a prescription short-acting non-benzodiazepine hypnotic, which is recommended for short-term (7-10 days) treatment of insomnia. Newer formulations of zolpidem tartrate do not appear to have any therapeutic benefit over existing generic zolpidem tablets; therefore, the preferred alternative should be tried prior to use.



Corporate Office
3111 W. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Suite 800
Tampa, Florida 33607

[myMatrixx.com](https://www.myMatrixx.com) | (877) 804-4900



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