



Texas Department of Insurance

Division of Workers' Compensation

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645
512-804-4000 telephone • 512-804-4001 fax

Memorandum

Date: December 5, 2013

To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Matthew Zurek, Executive Deputy Commissioner for Health Care Management and System Monitoring

Subject: Addition of Zohydro as an "N" Status Drug to Appendix A, *ODG Workers' Compensation Drug Formulary* from the *Official Disability Guidelines – Treatment in Workers' Comp*

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the prescription drug Zohydro ER. Direction concerning the use of Zohydro is now included in procedure summaries found in the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation's (TDI-DWC's) adopted treatment guideline – the *Official Disability Guidelines – Treatment in Workers' Comp* (ODG). According to the ODG, Zohydro is not recommended for work-related injuries.

The TDI-DWC has worked closely with the Work Loss Data Institute (WLDI), publisher of the ODG, to minimize any changes to the ODG's Appendix A during and immediately following the transition of claims to the pharmacy closed formulary. However, FDA approval of this new drug has prompted the WLDI to review the drug to determine whether it should be added to Appendix A with an "N" status.

Although the manufacturer has indicated that Zohydro will not be available in retail pharmacies for approximately three months, the ODG will list Zohydro on Appendix A immediately to conform with the ODG's treatment guideline procedure summaries and avoid causing any confusion regarding preauthorization and recommended use of the drug. Consequently, Zohydro has been added as an "N" status drug in the December version of Appendix A in ODG and on TDI website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/dm/index.html#ndrugs>.

As a reminder, beginning September 1, 2013, preauthorization is required when prescribing and dispensing any "N" status drug regardless of the date of injury.

If there are any questions regarding the information in this memorandum, contact Mark McAfee at 512-804-5003 or Mark.McAfee@tdi.texas.gov.