

INSURANCE CARRIER LETTERHEAD

Overview of the Texas Workers' Compensation Pharmacy Closed Formulary

- Starting on September 1, 2013, the pharmacy closed formulary adopted by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI-DWC) will begin to apply to workers' compensation claims with dates of injury prior to September 1, 2011 (i.e., "legacy claims"). The pharmacy closed formulary is currently in effect for workers' compensation claims occurring on or after September 1, 2011.

Here is some general background information and important policy implementation dates for the pharmacy closed formulary that you should be aware of:

- The pharmacy closed formulary includes all FDA-approved drugs, except for investigational and experimental drugs and drugs listed as "N" drugs (or "not recommended" drugs) in Appendix A of the Division's adopted treatment guidelines – *the Official Disability Guidelines – Treatment for Work Comp* published by the Work Loss Data Institute.
- To obtain a free copy of the most current list of "N" drugs see <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/dm/documents/ndruglist.xls>.
- After September 1, 2013 any prescriptions of "N" drugs for legacy claims will require preauthorization from the insurance carrier before it can be dispensed.
- Beginning no later than March 1, 2013, insurance carriers are to identify legacy claims that have been prescribed a drug excluded (not recommended) from the pharmacy closed formulary, notify the prescribing doctor of the impending applicability of the pharmacy closed formulary and provide contact information allowing the prescribing doctor to discuss the ongoing pharmacological management of the injured employee's claim.
- The intent of these discussions with the insurance carrier is to foster positive outcomes for the injured employee during and after the implementation of the pharmacy closed formulary.
- To ensure continuity of care, the prescribing doctor and insurance carrier may enter into a written agreement regarding the application of the pharmacy closed formulary for individual legacy claims.

Detailed information about pharmacy closed formulary is available at the following link to the TDI-DWC website: <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/pharmacy/index.html>.