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To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Graves Owen, M.D., Medical Advisor

Date: September 23, 2026

Subject: DWC Finalizes the *Topical Analgesic Plan-Based Audit Plan*

On July 23, 2026, the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) pursued and received constructive input from workers' compensation system participants on the *Topical Analgesic Audit Plan* (Audit Plan).

DWC appreciates the input, and we carefully considered and discussed all comments. The plan-based audit was approved with edits based on the comments received.

The Audit Plan sets the priorities for the medical quality review audits during the upcoming year. Information about the [Medical Quality Review Process](#) (Process) and the proposed plan-based audit is on the TDI website at [Office of the Medical Advisor](#).

All medical quality reviews initiated on or after January 1, 2026, will follow the approved Process in effect.

If you have any questions, contact Jennifer Self at Jennifer.Self@tdi.texas.gov or 512-804-4852.