# The ODG Drug Formulary

## Introduction

ODG by MCG has developed the ODG Drug Formulary to assist providers in the appropriate use of medications. The ODG Drug Formulary is derived from the evidence-based recommendations in the ODG treatment topics and is based on a drug's effectiveness and appropriateness for the treatment of illnesses and injuries covered under workers' compensation laws.

## Scope of the ODG Drug Formulary

The ODG Drug Formulary includes U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved drugs listed by generic and/or brand names that are commonly prescribed for workplace injuries. It is expected that drugs are delivered in the exact way the FDA has identified in their approval (e.g., oral, topical, rectal, intramuscular, subcutaneous). Compounded drugs are not included in the ODG Drug Formulary and therefore require prior authorization. More information on compounding drugs can be found on the FDA website at: https://www.fda.gov/drugs/guidance- compliance-regulatory-information/human-drug-compounding.

The ODG Drug Formulary does not address:

- Other FDA-approved products (e.g., medical devices, medical foods)
- Drugs approved in other countries but not the United States
- Drugs used during a procedure or surgery (e.g., anesthesia)
- Drugs not specifically listed as part of the formulary

## General Guidelines

### Generic Drugs

Generic equivalents to brand-name drugs may be appropriate as a cost-effective alternative. The FDA states that it ensures the safety and effectiveness of the generic drugs it approves. If a generic equivalency is indicated on the ODG Drug Formulary, a generic alternative should be used unless there is documentation of the need for the brand-name drug. Preauthorization may be needed when a brand-name drug is requested in the place of a generic equivalent.

### Reducing Pill Burden

Prescribers should consider the patient pill burden when prescribing medication strengths. Best practices for reducing pill burden include:

- Reassess each medication for ongoing indication and effectiveness
- Consider nonpharmaceutical interventions to aid in pain management
- Use once-daily dosing options instead of multiple daily doses
- Use fixed combination tablets where possible

### Discontinuation of Medication

When documentation does not support a medication as effective, consideration should be given to discontinuing the medication. Interactions between pain medications should be considered. Prescribers should also consider the need for medication monitoring with some medications, including periodic lab work as necessary.

### Prior Authorization

A medical provider may need to obtain prior authorization before prescribing or dispensing a drug other than as described in the ODG treatment guidelines, or when prescribing:

- A drug not listed on the ODG Drug Formulary (except when emergency use is required)
- A drug listed on the ODG Drug Formulary with a Status of "N"
- A brand-name drug listed on the ODG Drug Formulary when a generic is available
- Combination products, unless specifically listed on the ODG Drug Formulary
- Compounded drugs

The need for prior authorization varies by state. Prescribers should consult their state specific rules and regulations to determine if prior authorization is required.

### ODG Drug Formulary Format

The ODG Formulary consists of the following columns:

- **Drug Class**: The drug class is the ODG assigned therapeutic class. Multiple FDA pharmacy classes may be combined into a single ODG drug class (e.g., antibiotic agents and anti-fungal agents are combined in the anti-infectives drug class).
- **Generic Name**: The FDA-approved name for the chemical entity.

- **Brand Name**: The brand name listed is a common or innovator brand name. The brand name is provided for illustration and is not an all-inclusive list of available brands.
- **Generic Equivalency (GE)**: The GE indicator designates whether a generic equivalent (as defined by the Orange Book) or over-the-counter (OTC) is available. If the value listed is "Yes," then the prescription should allow generic substitution. If the value listed is "Y-OTC," then an OTC substitution should be considered.
- **Status**: The Status indicator designates what preference category a drug belongs to. If the value listed is "Y," the drug is a preferred drug. If the value listed is "N," the drug is not a preferred drug. Preauthorization is recommended for drugs with an "N" status when the use of these drugs would be appropriate and medically necessary.
- **Cost**: ODG uses publicly available average sales pricing data to determine cost. The relative cost of therapy, for a typical dosage and course of therapy, is based on the indication, form, brand name or generic name, number of doses, and days of therapy. When a generic is available, the cost will reflect the average price of the generic rather than the brand-name drug. ODG Cost is designed to allow users to compare the cost of one drug to another. It does not represent what the claimant or plan will pay out of pocket.

While cost is not as important as clinical outcomes, it is a consideration when data support that clinical outcomes are similar and there is a major increase in cost. In these cases, drugs with significantly higher costs and without additional clinical benefit will generally receive a non-preferred status.