



Nevada Senate Bill 317 (SB 317) Workers' Compensation ODG Drug Formulary Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Overview

The Nevada Workers' Compensation Drug Formulary was established through Nevada Senate Bill 317 (SB 317). SB 317 requires the Nevada Division of Industrial Relations (DIR) to adopt the ODG Drug Formulary published by MCG Health as Nevada's workers' compensation outpatient prescription drug formulary.

The formulary promotes evidence-based prescribing, improves consistency in medication management, supports timely access to appropriate medications, and provides a standardized process for medically necessary exceptions. It applies only to outpatient prescription medications and does not apply to emergency department or inpatient hospital medications.

Effective Date: July 1, 2027

Transition Period: January 1, 2027 through July 1, 2027

Purpose

- Adopt the ODG Drug Formulary as Nevada's official outpatient workers' compensation drug formulary
- Promote evidence-based prescribing
- Improve consistency in medication decisions
- Encourage safe, effective, and cost-effective medication use
- Establish a process for medically necessary exceptions
- Provide a consistent framework for medication authorization and appeals

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

1. What is the Nevada Workers' Compensation Drug Formulary?

The formulary is the ODG Drug Formulary published by MCG Health and adopted pursuant to Nevada Senate Bill 317. It identifies preferred and non-preferred outpatient prescription medications for work-related injuries.

2. When does the formulary become effective?

The formulary becomes effective July 1, 2027. Nevada established a transition period from January 1, 2027 through July 1, 2027.



3. Does the formulary apply to all medications?

No. It applies only to outpatient prescription medications related to accepted workers' compensation claims.

- Emergency department medications are excluded
- Inpatient hospital medications are excluded

4. Where can I access the ODG State Formulary?

The ODG State Formulary is available free to the public at www.odgbymcg.com/state-formulary.

5. Is the free formulary different from the subscription version?

No. Both versions contain the same formulary status information. The subscription version also includes evidence-based treatment guidelines, clinical rationale, prescribing guidance, the Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED) Calculator, drug monographs, clinical references, and additional decision-support tools.

Prescribing and Coverage

6. What do Preferred (Y) and Non-Preferred (N) mean?

Preferred (Y) medications are generally supported by evidence for the indicated condition. Non-Preferred (N) medications may require additional review or authorization. Some medications may have both designations depending on the diagnosis.

7. Can physicians prescribe non-formulary medications?

Yes. Physicians may request authorization for medically necessary non-formulary medications with supporting documentation.

8. Can physicians continue prescribing any medication they choose?

No. Beginning July 1, 2027, non-formulary outpatient medications generally require prior authorization.

9. Are insurers required to reimburse every prescribed medication?

No. Insurers are not required to reimburse medications that are not approved under the formulary, although medically necessary exceptions may be approved.

10. Can exceptions be made?

Yes. Physicians may request approval for medically necessary non-formulary medications.

11. What happens if a medication request is denied?

The determination may be appealed through Nevada's hearing process.



Appeals

12. Who may request a hearing?

An injured worker, employer, or insurer may request a hearing.

13. When can a hearing be requested?

After a written determination has been issued or if no response is provided within 30 days.

14. Is there a deadline to request a hearing?

Generally, a hearing request must be submitted within 70 days after the written determination is mailed.

Transition Period

15. What happens to injured workers who are already taking medications before July 1, 2027?

Nevada established a transition provision. Certain medications prescribed between January 1, 2027 and July 1, 2027 may continue to be reimbursed through January 1, 2028.

Formulary Information

16. How many medications are included in the ODG State Formulary?

The formulary generally includes more than 45,000 National Drug Codes (NDCs) and is updated regularly.

17. Does an NDC identify whether a medication is brand-name or generic?

No. An NDC identifies the manufacturer, strength, dosage form, and packaging configuration.

18. Why does one medication sometimes have both a Preferred (Y) and Non-Preferred (N) designation?

Because formulary status depends on the medical condition being treated.

Opioid Resources

19. What references are used to determine Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED)?

ODG uses CDC opioid conversion factors.

20. What if I only know the brand name of an opioid?

Enter the brand name and total daily dose into the ODG MED Calculator. It will identify the opioid and calculate the Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED).



Quick Reference

Topic	Information
Legislation	Nevada Senate Bill 317 (SB 317)
Drug Formulary	ODG Drug Formulary
Effective Date	July 1, 2027
Transition Period	January 1, 2027 – July 1, 2027
Transition Reimbursement Ends	January 1, 2028
Applies To	Outpatient workers' compensation prescriptions
Does Not Apply To	Emergency department and inpatient hospital medications
Public Access	www.odgbymcg.com/state-formulary
Exceptions Allowed	Yes, with supporting medical necessity
Appeals Available	Yes
Hearing Deadline	Generally, 70 days from mailing of determination