



## STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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On April 1, 2024, the Board released the 2024 Georgia's Workers' Compensation Medical Fee schedule including updated codes, billing guidelines and reimbursement rates. Part of this update included new guidance for reimbursement on topical medications and topical compound medications, located under "**Section IV: General Reimbursement Requirements, Subsection C: Special Rules and Limitations.**"

On May 31, 2024, the Board adopted an amendment to the above-referenced section to clarify reimbursement for topical and topical compound medications. This amendment completely replaces the Over-the-Counter Medications, Compound Medications, and Topical Medications sections on pages 14 and 15 of the Georgia Workers' Compensation 2024 Medical Fee Schedule and provides as follows:

### **Section IV: General Reimbursement Requirements, Subsection C: Special Rules and Limitations**

#### **Topical Medications and Topical Compound Medications**

Regardless of how many ingredients or what type, topical medications cannot be reimbursed higher than the Category III fee. The 30-day Maximum Fee Schedule value shall be fractioned down to the prescribed and dispensed amount given to the injured worker. Automatic refilling is not allowed. All topical medications and compounds shall be billed and reimbursed at the lesser of the retail price as described in the Over-The-Counter Medications Section below or, using the Georgia fee schedule code corresponding with the applicable category, as follows:

1. **Category I GA0801**, \$80.00 per 30-day supply. Any anti-inflammatory medication or any local anesthetic single agent.
2. **Category II GA0802**, \$160.00 per 30-day supply. Any anti-inflammatory agent or agents in combination with any local anesthetic agent or agents.
3. **Category III GA0803**, \$240.00 per 30-day supply. Any agent(s) other than anti-inflammatory or local anesthetic agents, either alone, or in combination with other anti-inflammatory or local anesthetic agents.

#### **Over-the-Counter Medications**

Dispensed over-the-counter (OTC) drugs that are available without the requirement of a physician's prescription, in the same dosage or strength,

are not subject to dispensing fees. Reimbursement shall be at retail price and shall not exceed the average wholesale price (AWP) of the original manufacturer's NDC, as outlined above, plus 50 percent. An invoice should be submitted when requesting reimbursement for OTC drugs. Reimbursement for OTC topical medications shall be limited to the lesser of the pricing in this Section or the Topical Medications and Topical Compound Medications Section above.

### **Compound Medications**

Unless otherwise indicated within the Topical Medications and Topical Compound Medications Section above, or within the Compound Medications reimbursement guidelines below, the Georgia State Board of Pharmacy Rules and Regulations, Chapter 480-11, Pharmaceutical Compounding, and O.C.G.A. Title 26, Chapter 4, Section 80 shall apply. (See Georgia State Board of Pharmacy Advisory, Compounding Pharmacies and Pharmacists, October 30, 2012 at <https://gbp.georgia.gov/press-releases/2012-10-30/pharmacy-advisory>.)

Compound medications shall be billed by the compounding pharmacy.

- Compound medications shall be billed by listing each ingredient, the corresponding NDC, and the quantity. An ingredient for which there is no NDC shall not be reimbursed.
- For compound medications, reimbursement shall only be considered for preparations that contain not less than one (1), nor more than three (3) active ingredient(s), and the active ingredient(s) must be Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved. (FDA approved means the New Drug Application for the active ingredient used has been approved by the FDA and is legal for general use.)
- If the NDC for the compound ingredient is a repackaged drug, the maximum allowable reimbursement for the repackaged drug shall be determined based on the Average Wholesale Price (AWP) of the NDC of the original manufacturer.

The maximum allowable reimbursement for the compound shall be the sum of the AWP for each active ingredient minus 50 percent, plus a single compounding fee of \$20.00.