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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

September 7, 2018

State of the States



Illinois

This week, Governor Rauner signed and vetoed numerous bills following the 2018 session.

Among the vetoed bills was **SB 904** which would have allowed workers' comp medical providers to collect a 1% interest penalty against insurers who unreasonably delay payments. Although the Governor has called for workers' comp reform, in his veto statement he said SB 904 does nothing to help fix or improve the system. Rauner also signed several bills into law, including **SB 2777** which requires providers to complete three hours of continuing education courses on the safe prescribing of opioids, and **SB 336**, which creates a pilot program for physicians to prescribe medical marijuana in lieu of opioids for some patients.



Florida

Last week, NCCI **recommended** another double-digit reduction in workers' comp costs for Florida. With a continued

decline in claims frequencies, the rating agency recommended a 13.4% decrease in premiums. If approved, the reduction would take effect January 1. Workers' comp stakeholders continue to worry that the full effects of the 2016 Supreme Court case throwing out caps on attorney fees could inevitably lead to a significant increase in costs. However, with yet another recommended reduction, pressure on legislators to reform workers' comp is lessened.



Kentucky

Last week, Commissioner Swisher called a joint meeting of the Regulatory Advisory Council and the Medical Advisory Council responsible for implementing HB 2. The Councils listened to a presentation from the Tennessee Workers' Comp Medical Director regarding his experiences with implementing the ODG formulary in Tennessee. The Councils and Commissioner are likely to make their formulary proposal in the coming weeks as they are still aiming for a January 1, 2019 implementation date as required by **HB 2**.



State of the States



A new **rule** that would expand the use of telemedicine in Texas' workers' compensation

system went into effect September 1, 2018. Historically, in Texas, reimbursement for a telemedicine visit was limited to Health Professional Shortage Areas, or areas of the state where medical providers were few and far between. The new rule removes that location restriction, but the rules still maintain that only specific, limited services are available through telemedicine.



On Tuesday, Kansas Attorney General, Derek Schmidt, **filed** an appeal with the State

Supreme Court to review the Court of Appeals ruling that threw out the sixth edition of the AMA guidelines. Last month, the Court of Appeals found that the use of the most recent edition of the guidelines was unconstitutional because they deprived workers of the right to judicial remedies for injuries. The Supreme Court has not yet decided if they will take up the case.

Where in the U.S.A. is Danielle?

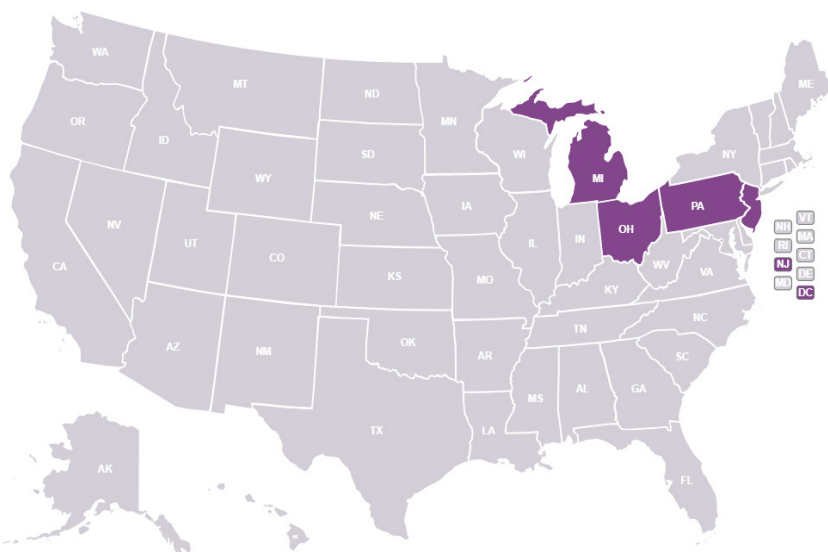
Danielle will be in the home office next week.



States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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