

January 6, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



On January 1, new requirements for all liens filed in California went into effect. To address the

changes, the Department of Industrial Relations released a new lien form Tuesday [night](#) and on Wednesday they held a hearing on proposed rules addressing some of those requirements. These changes come as a result of the 2016 bill, SB 1160, signed into law by the Governor last fall.



This week, Florida's Workers' Compensation Advisory Panel published their biennial [report](#)

to the legislature. In the report, the Panel requests legislative authority for the Division of Workers' Compensation to create a drug formulary through the regulatory process. The legislative request, one of three offered, comes just a month after the state implemented the dramatic 14.5 percent rate increase and as legislators gear up for the new session.



Last year, 38 former NFL players filed a federal lawsuit against the NFL seeking workers' comp coverage for chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). However, the lawsuit was dismissed by a federal court in late December and [now](#) those same former players are filing individual state-based lawsuits. The former players claim they developed CTE as a result of head injuries suffered during NFL games, making CTE an occupational disease entitled to workers' comp benefits.





State of the States



As Illinois enters another year without a budget, the Governor took to the newspapers to

write an [op-ed](#) on why workers' comp reforms are needed. Governor Rauner ties the loss of manufacturing jobs and business in the state to Illinois' costly workers' comp program. Illinois is the most expensive state in the Midwest for workers' comp and the Governor continues to push for workers' comp reforms as part of the on-going budget battle.



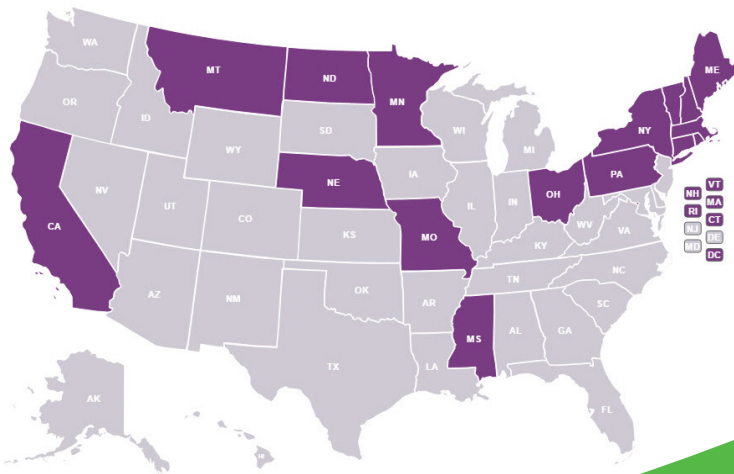
A [bill](#) requiring prompt payment for pharmaceutical services under New York's

workers' comp program has been introduced. The bill would add pharmacists and prescriptions to the list of services requiring payment or notification of non-payment with an explanation of denial within 45 days. A similar bill was introduced in 2016 but failed to pass.

Article of Interest

A new [survey](#) conducted by the Boston Globe looks at how efforts to curb opioid abuse impact doctor prescribing habits. Over the last two years, over half of the physicians surveyed have cut back on their opioid prescribing. While the majority of physicians feel that these reductions still provide adequate access for chronic pain patients, a quarter of those surveyed think patients are hurt by the reductions.

States in Session



Where in the U.S.A. are Jayne & Danielle?

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Jayne and Danielle will be in the home office next week.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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