

November 17, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



On Tuesday, the Florida House Commerce Committee [voted](#) on party lines to push through a bill that would

cap attorney fees at \$150/hour. A nearly identical bill was considered during the 2017 session but failed in the House. Additionally, this week a [bill](#) that would allow workers' comp coverage for mental illness in first responders was pre-filed for the 2018 session. A similar bill was considered in 2017 but failed to move out of committee.



On Wednesday, Governor Baker [announced](#) his second initiative to combat the state's opioid epidemic. In the newest

legislative proposal, Governor Baker calls for the creation of a "well-documented, evidence-based" drug formulary for the state's workers' comp system. In addition, the bill requires electronic prescribing by 2020 and establishes penalties for doctors who fail to query the PDMP before prescribing an opioid.



The Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission [released](#) another draft of the states

proposed drug formulary. The draft once again delays implementation until July 2018 and caps almost all opioid prescriptions at 50 morphine equivalent doses (MED) per day.



[New](#) chronic pain guidelines for treating injured workers in Colorado will go into effect

at the end of this month. The new guidelines urge prescribers to limit total use of narcotic painkillers to at or below 50 MED per day. Where a sedative is also prescribed, the guidelines call for a 30 MED limit.



State of the States



A settlement has been reached in the case that led to the finding that Alabama's workers' comp law was

unconstitutional. The [settlement](#) throws into question whether

or not the legislature will tackle workers' comp when they return to work in 2018. However, stakeholders, including trial lawyers and hospitals, are already working on proposals for reforms to the thirty-year old bill.

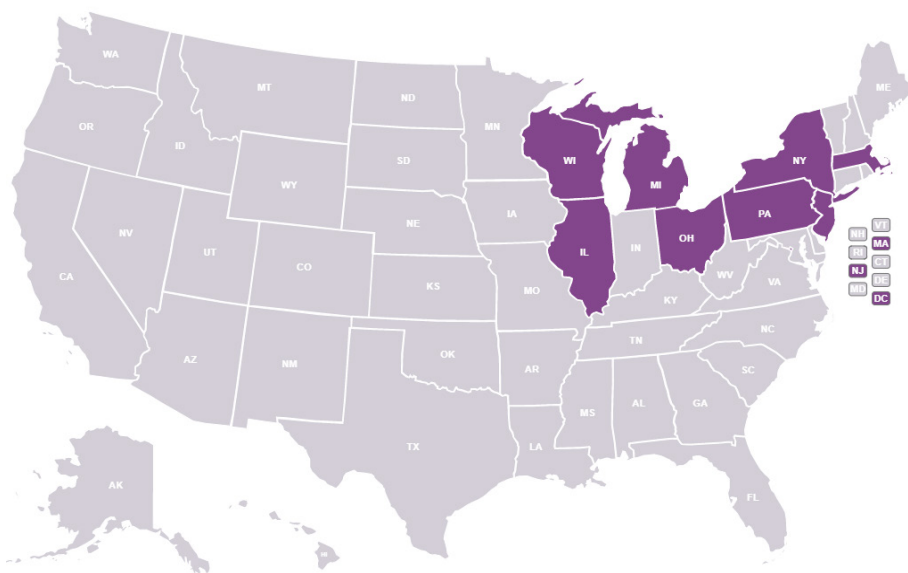
Industry News

CompPharma released its 14th Annual [Survey](#) of Prescription Drug Management in Workers' Compensation. Based on 2016 pharmacy cost data, the survey found that on average prescription drug spend in workers' comp is down 11% and a 13% decrease in opioid prescription costs.

States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



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

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



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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