

December 23, 2016

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



The Department of Labor and Industry is proposing amendments to the workers'

comp rules that would establish a pharmacy fee schedule and independent medical examinations. The changes come as a result of statutes requiring providers and payers to use electronic billing and payment. The exact language of the rules has not yet been released.



A [biennial report](#) by the Texas Division of Workers' Compensation found that

the percent of non-subscriber employers in the state, or employers who do not participate

in the state's workers' comp program, has decreased from 33 percent in 2014 to 22 percent in 2016. The report attributes the change to the decreasing workers' comp rates over the last few years. Since the Oklahoma Supreme Court ruling earlier this year, Texas is again the only state in the country that allows private employers to opt-out of workers' comp.



This year, in an [attempt](#) to fight the opioid epidemic, Maine enacted a new law that put

requirements on prescribers and dispensers in the state. Among the provisions are requirements on providers and pharmacies to consult the PDMP in certain circumstances, a 7-day opioid fill

limit, and caps on opioid dosages. The law is set to go into effect on January 1 but in order to give providers time to adjust to the new rules the state will delay enforcement and civil penalties for several months.



Back in August Pennsylvania established a more comprehensive prescription drug monitoring

program and only four months in the Department of Health is [signaling](#) its performing well. In the first four months, 64,000 pharmacists and doctors have signed up for the PDMP and the system is currently handling 25,000 queries a day. In 2017 Pennsylvania will begin sharing their data with other states and the Department of Health will begin identifying prescribers and pharmacies who are not registered.



State of the States



Newly released drug shipping sales [records](#) sent to West Virginia's Attorney General show that over

the last six years, drug wholesalers have shipped nearly 780 million hydrocodone and oxycodone pills to pharmacies in West Virginia. That number breaks down to 433 pain pills for every resident, including children. West Virginia is home to the top four counties for fatal pain pill overdoses in the United States, with an additional six counties in the top twenty nationwide.



As Illinois' temporary budget is set to expire on December 31st and workers' comp remains a

hot topic in budget negotiations, [comparisons](#) of Illinois' workers' comp system and its neighbor, Indiana remain a hot topic. Both states have a similar causation standard, but Illinois' workers' comp costs are the 8th most expensive in the country while Indiana is the second-least expensive, leading critics to say reforming workers' comp is more than just changing causation.

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

Jayne will be in the home office and Danielle will be out of the office.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

Jayne Cannava, Esq.
VP, Legal and Government Affairs
jcannava@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwp/government-affairs
978.809.2148

Danielle Jaffee, Esq.
Manager of Government Affairs
djaffee@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwp/government-affairs
978.770.8047



IWP

PO Box 338 Methuen, MA 01844

The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®