

September 9, 2016

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



SB 1160, which makes changes to the lien filing regulations for the state's workers' compensation system are now before Governor Brown awaiting his signature. The legislation, which was passed by both houses in the final week of session, will allow only legitimate liens through the system and works to block physicians charged with fraud from filing liens.

During the last week of August, the Department of Workers' Compensation **posted** the draft formulary for public comment. The California Workers' Compensation Institute issued a preliminary study examining the impact of the formulary and found that almost 70% of prescriptions prescribed in 2014 as part of the workers' compensation system would be considered non-preferred or not listed on the proposed formulary.



The Department of Health and Human Services **announced** \$53 million in grants to 44 states in an effort to help fight the opioid epidemic. The grants are to be used to improve access to treatment, expand first responder access to naloxone, and strengthen Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs.



State of the States



The State of Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission issued a **report** finding

workplace injuries and illnesses increased 8% in 2014 from the previous year, meaning there were almost 35,000 cases of workplace injuries. Musculoskeletal disorders, such as sprains and carpal tunnel syndrome, amounted to 51% of all reports. Infectious diseases and respiratory conditions rounded out the most common reported injuries in Connecticut.



The Department of Industrial Accidents has **proposed** changes to eight chapters of the state's workers' compensation regulations. The proposals include specifications on what must be submitted electronically, fees associated with exams, review of reports, and impartial testimony. A hearing on the proposals will be held in late September.

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Article of Interest

An **article** examines the history of the opioid epidemic, dating back to the introduction of OxyContin in 1996, and examines the changes in treatment needed to curb the epidemic.

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

Jayne and Danielle will be in Boston for the Republican Governors Association Policy Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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