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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

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State of the States



The Vermont Department of Labor has **proposed** new rules regarding the use of

opioids. The proposed rules would require medical providers who prescribe opioids to injured workers for chronic pain to follow the state's **Rule** Governing the Prescribing of Opioids for Pain. The prescribing rules limit MMEs for acute and chronic pain patients and require the use of non-opioid treatments first. Under the proposed rule, if a provider prescribes opioids but fails to follow the state's prescribing rule there will be a rebuttable presumption that the medication is not reasonable medical treatment, allowing an insurer/ employer to deny payment.



Virginia Governor, Ralph Northam, issued an executive **order** to create an

interagency task force on worker misclassification. The task force will include representatives from the Workers' Compensation Commission, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Bureau of Insurance. Task force initiatives include reviewing statutes, regulations, and enforcement regarding worker misclassification and identifying appropriate legislative and administrative changes. A 2012 report found that a third of audited employers misclassify employees, avoiding purchasing workers' compensation insurance, unemployment insurance, and payroll taxes, lowering their costs by 40%.



In early September, the Indiana Workers' Compensation Board will hold

informational seminars on the upcoming workers' comp **drug formulary**. The state adopted the ODG drug formulary, which has been adopted by several other states, including Texas and Tennessee. The new law requires the implementation of the formulary by January 1, 2019 and allows for a one year transition period for injured workers currently on N-drugs.



State of the States

Article of Interest

The National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) [released](#) a new report, Motor Vehicle Accidents in Workers' Compensation. The report found that although we are experiencing an overall decline in workers' comp claims, claims involving motor vehicle accidents are on the rise and significantly more expensive than your average workers' comp claim.

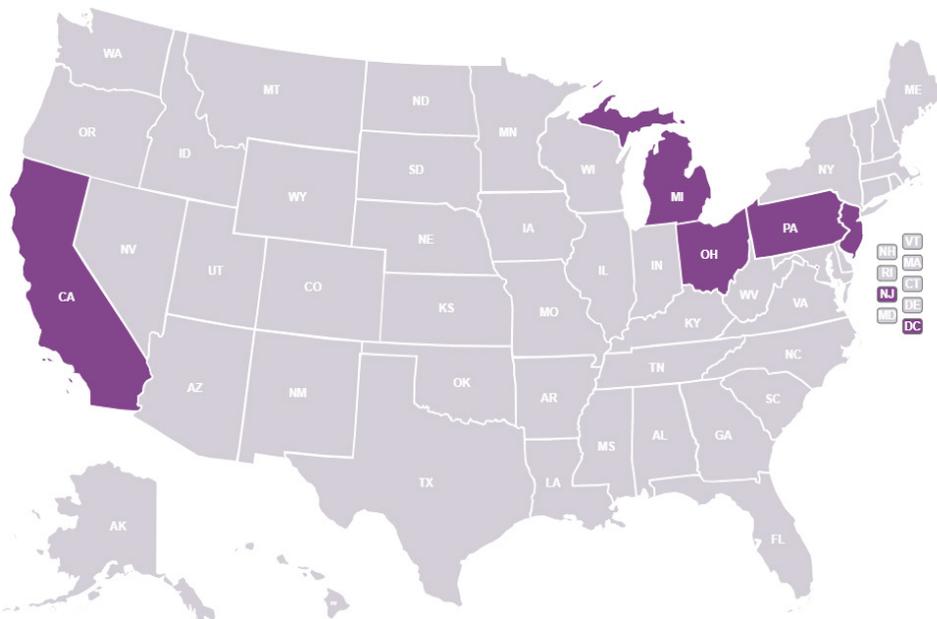
Industry News

This week Coventry released the third part of the Drug Trends [reports](#), focusing on opioids and compounds. The report finds that prescribing in the workers' comp industry is down, including a 10.9% decrease in prescription costs per claim and an 8% drop in utilization of prescribed medications. Additionally, both cost and utilization of opioids and compounds were down, with compounds decreasing 65.1% in cost per claim.

States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



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

Danielle will be in the home office next week.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us

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