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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

October 5, 2018

State of the States



Pennsylvania

With the days slowly dwindling for the Pennsylvania legislature, **HB 1909** was finally taken up by

the House Labor and Industries Committee this week. The bill would extend workers' comp benefits to volunteer workers. Currently, the state's workers' comp statute provides benefits to volunteer fire, ambulance corps, and rescue squads, but HB 1909 would also add officers, directors, and any other members of the organizations. The bill was debated by the House Labor and Industries Committee on Tuesday, where opponents of the bill argued it went too far. The bill would need to be voted on by both houses before they adjourn for the year next month.



Texas

The Texas Department of Insurance released their **proposed** 2019 Workers'

Compensation Research and Evaluation Group agenda. The proposals include the completion of the annual Workers' Compensation Health Care Network Report Card, the annual update of medical costs and utilization in the workers' comp system, including analysis of the formulary, and an evaluation of medical services provided through telemedicine as part of the workers' comp system.



New Jersey

Last week, **A 4505** was introduced in the New Jersey Assembly. The bill would require workers' comp, personal injury, and automobile insurers to cover the costs associated with medical marijuana. At least one other medication must be tried and found to be unsuccessful before a worker can qualify for marijuana. The bill is currently before the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.



National

On Monday, the Department of Justice **announced** it would be awarding nearly \$320 million to states to combat the opioid crisis. The money will go towards several areas, including developing programs aimed at reducing opioid abuse and mitigating its impact on crime, establishing drug courts to handle opioid related crimes, and addressing the mental health treatment needs of people abusing opioids.

State of the States



On Monday, Governor Malloy **announced** the Connecticut Department of Insurance received a \$2.1 million federal grant to improve return-to-work services for injured employees. The money will go

to an 18-month pilot program coordinated between several state agencies, including the Workers' Compensation Commission and the Department of Rehabilitation Services, to focus on providing more proactive return-to-work/stay-at-work programs for injured employees.

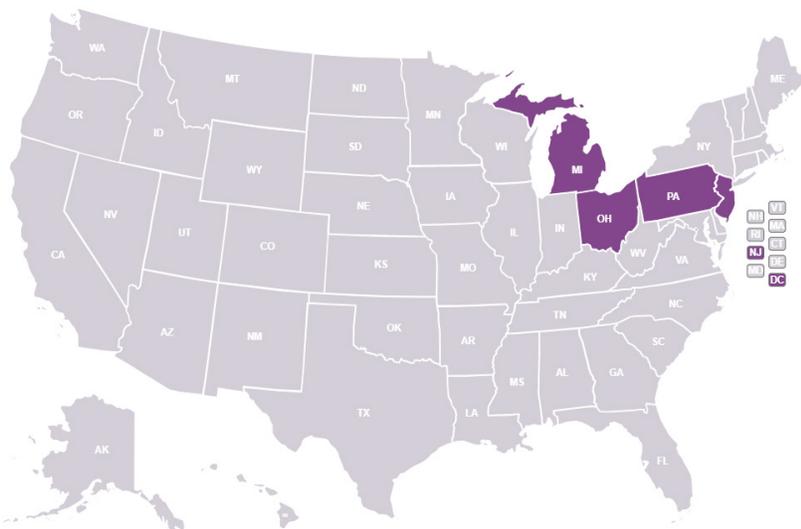
Industry News

The Food and Drug Administration has **partnered** with the National Academies of Science, Engineering & Medicine (NASEM) to research the safety and effectiveness of compound topical pain creams for the treatment of patients. The study will conclude with recommendations regarding the treatment of patients with compounded topical pain creams.

States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



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

Next week, Danielle will be in Atlanta, Georgia for legislative meetings with our new lobbyists.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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