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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

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State of the States



Georgia

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia **identified** nearly 30 prescribers who prescribed

opioids in significantly higher quantities than their peers. The information came from a review of the state's PDMP and the identified prescribers were sent a letter notifying them of their higher prescribing and educational materials, including the CDC's opioid guidelines, to help reduce abuse and diversion of opioids in the state.



Oklahoma

Last week, Representative Kannady held the first interim study session for workers' compensation.

Kannady limited the group's discussion to funding the Multiple Injury Trust Fund and did not address any other pending workers' comp issues.



Texas

The October update of the Texas drug **formulary** has changed Narcan nasal spray to a "Y" drug. ODG has not

updated their formulary to reflect the change for all ODG states, but they have recently reached out to states to inform them they will be making updates to the overall ODG formulary shortly to address opioid antagonists and compounds.



Kentucky

Kentucky **announced** they were one of the eight states to receive a federal grant for the development of

a Return-to-Work program. The \$2.5 million grant will fund the RETAINing Kentucky's Workforce through Universal Design pilot program, focusing on early intervention and coordinated health and employment services to prevent long-term unemployment due to injury.



National

Last Wednesday, the U.S. Congress **passed** the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, a bill addressing the country's opioid epidemic. The bill passed the Senate 98-1 and the House 393-8 and is expected to be signed by President Trump by the end of this week. The compromise legislation would increase penalties for drug manufacturers who contribute to the overprescribing of opioids, expand access to naloxone for first responders, and increase access to opioid addiction treatment.



State of the States



The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission has announced a delayed implementation

of the new electronic billing requirements. The requirements, originally scheduled to become

effective December 31, 2018, will now become effective July 1, 2019. The Commission is still in the process of revising the **rules**, including offering an exemption for small payers, or those that bill fewer than 250 workers' comp bills annually, and requires that all services billed electronically must be paid electronically.

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

Danielle will be in Kentucky on Monday and Tuesday for legislative meetings.



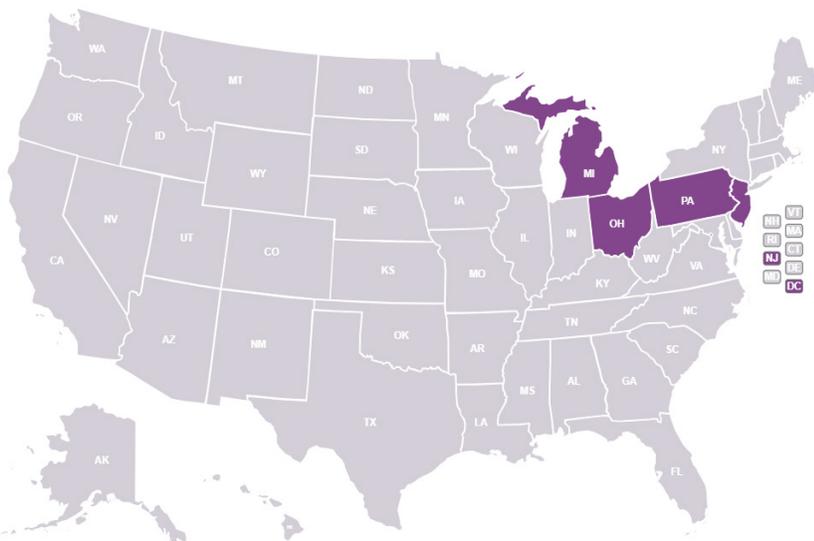
Article of Interest

Oregon's Department of Consumer and Business Services released its annual **report** on workers' compensation costs. Oregon, along with fifteen other states including Texas, Arizona, and Massachusetts, have the lowest costs in the **country**. Meanwhile, in 2018, New York became the highest cost state, with California, Alaska, and New Jersey close behind.

States in Session

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Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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