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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

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State of the States



Pennsylvania

On Wednesday night, the Pennsylvania legislature **ended** their 2018 legislative session. With

the end of session looming, the legislature sent numerous bills to the Governor's desk for signature including HB 1840. The bill was designed to address a 2017 supreme court case that prohibited physicians from using the "most recent edition" of the American Medical Association (AMA) guidelines to determine level of disability. HB 1840 specifies the use of the 6th edition of the AMA guidelines, increases burial benefits, and reduces the impairment threshold to 35%, down from the original 50%.



Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Workers' Compensation Advisory Council will **hold** a public hearing

in November to begin the process of developing their annual report to the legislature. The Council compiles recommended legislative language every other year for the legislature to consider when addressing the workers' comp system. Council membership is comprised of representatives from both labor and employers/insurers.



Tennessee

Last week, the Tennessee Workers' Compensation Advisory Council voted to adopt a 14% rate reduction for workers' compensation. The National Council on Compensation Insurance recommended a 19.1% decrease earlier this month, but outside actuaries hired by the state both recommended a 9% reduction. The Council opted to take the average and recommend the 14% cost reduction for employers, beginning January 1.



National

It's been a big week for prescription drug cost transparency. Last week, President Trump **signed** two bills into law that remove gag orders on pharmacists from discussing cheaper priced prescription options with consumers. In addition, this week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) **proposed** a new requirement that drug manufacturers disclose the Wholesale Acquisition Cost (WAC) for all prescriptions covered by Medicare or Medicaid in their television advertisements. While none of these actions call on workers' comp specifically, the prices of commonly prescribed medications in workers' comp may become widely known as a result.

State of the States



Two Illinois-based self-insurance pools that provide workers' comp insurance to over 200

local municipalities have filed a joint **lawsuit** against opioid manufacturers, distributors,

and prescribers. The lawsuit is seeking financial compensation to recoup costs associated with the over-prescribing and abuse of opioid medications. This includes costs associated with overdoses, addiction treatment, and coverage of overdose reversal medications, such as Narcan.

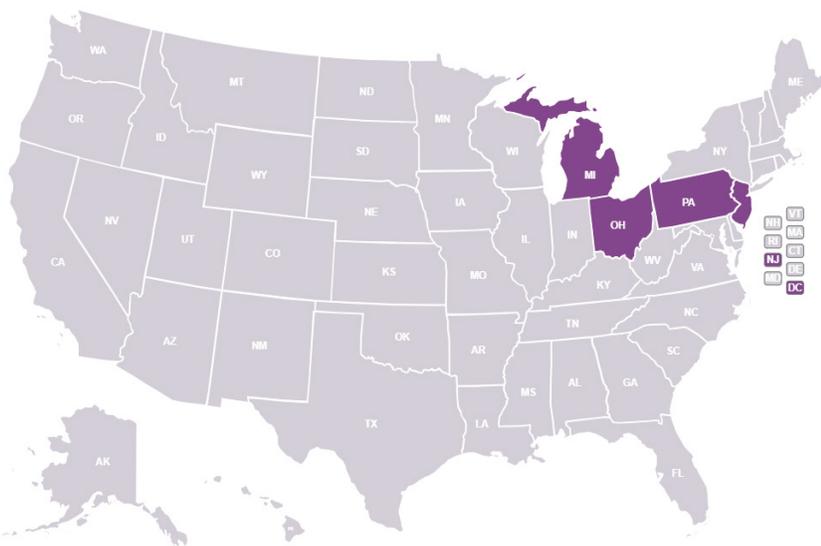
Article of Interest

Earlier this month, The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) **released** a new fact sheet for employers considering the development of a naloxone program to prevent opioid overdoses in the workplace.

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 Atlanta, GA for legislative meetings on Monday.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

Danielle Jaffee, Esq.
Director of Legal and Government Affairs
djaffee@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwpharmacy/government-affairs

978.770.8047

