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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

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State of the States



Late last week, the New York Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) posted **revised** proposed regulations regarding the state's new drug formulary. New York was scheduled to adopt a drug formulary back in July, but after the first round of proposed regulations were released in December 2017 the WCB went silent. Under the proposal, the formulary will take effect for all new prescriptions six months from the effective date. Refill and renewal prescriptions will be subject to the formulary twelve months from the effective date.



The New Jersey House Labor Committee voted 6-1 to pass **A1741**, a bill to greatly expand workers' comp coverage for first responders. Under the bill, New Jersey would

provide the most generous cancer presumption in the country, creating workers' comp benefits for most cancers, communicable diseases, and heart disease in first responders. The bill has been introduced the last 12 years, but failed to pass each year. A1741 faces strong opposition from insurers and employers.



With the end of the Pennsylvania legislative session, **HB 353** heads to Governor Wolfe's desk for signature. The bill would require all opioids to be prescribed electronically. If signed, the bill requires the Department of Health to develop regulations to implement the electronic prescription mandate within 180 days. Sponsor of the bill, Representative Tedd Nesbit aims to reduce fraud and theft of opioid prescriptions by sending orders directly to the patient's pharmacy.



In a new twist on the opioid manufacturer **lawsuit**, a recent lawsuit has been filed in New York that specifically names the family members who own Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin. The lawsuit argues that family members participated in advertising OxyContin as non-addictive and lied during a congressional investigation that they were unaware of OxyContin being abused prior to 2000. Currently, there are more than 1000 active lawsuits against companies that make, distribute, and sell opioids.



State of the States



The Alabama Bar Association's Workers' Comp Committee has **released** a draft of proposed legislation to

reform elements of the state's workers' comp system. Along with increasing weekly indemnity benefits and capping permanent partial disability medical benefits, the proposal prohibits a physician with an interest in a pharmacy from having their prescriptions filled at that pharmacy. The committee is accepting comments from other stakeholders over the next few weeks, but hopes to introduce the legislation in the 2019 session.



On Monday, the Kentucky Department of Workers' Claims **announced** the adoption of ODG for

their formulary and treatment guideline provider. The Department intends to adopt the formulary regulations by the end of the year and the formulary will become effective for prescriptions in 2019.

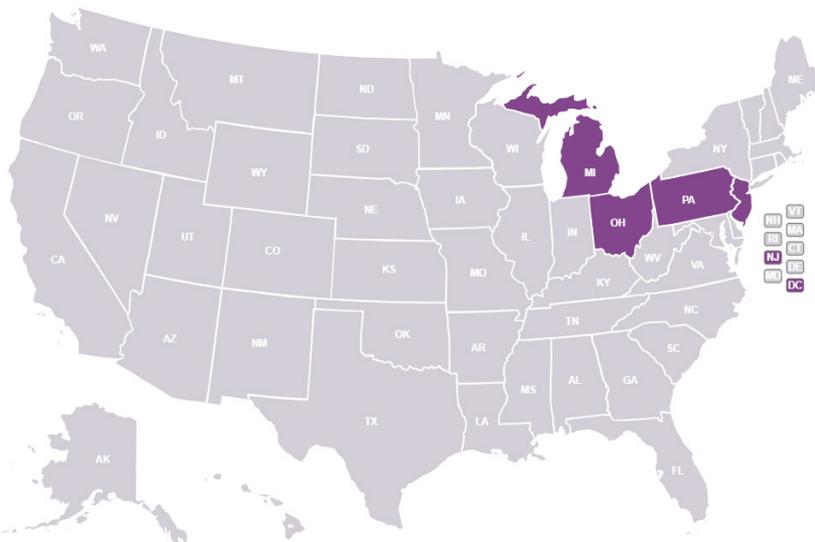
Where in the U.S.A. is Danielle?

Danielle will be out of the office on her honeymoon next week.

States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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