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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

November 30, 2018

State of the States



Florida

The new Florida Senate President, Bill Galvano, has **promised** to revisit Florida's workers' compensation

laws in the 2019 session despite reduced pressure from all sides as workers' comp rates continue to decline. Galvano wants to get ahead of the workers' comp issue and address any needed reforms early to avoid a crisis if/when rates do spike.



Pennsylvania

WCRI has released a new **report** showing how Pennsylvania's key workers' comp outcomes

compare to other states. The study collects data by interviewing individuals hurt on the job in Pennsylvania and compares their answers on key topics, such as wages, return to work, and

satisfaction with care. Among the findings, workers in Pennsylvania reported lower percentages of return to work after an injury than comparative states. Of the people interviewed, 12% reported having "big problems" getting medical services, while 14% of respondents reported having "big problems" getting the primary provider they wanted.



Tennessee

An opioid lawsuit filed in Tennessee took a hit this week with a **ruling** by a Circuit Court judge.

The lawsuit, which represents 47 counties, claimed that pharmaceutical companies who made opioids, such as OxyContin, were liable under the Drug Dealer Liability Act. The judge dismissed the claim, stating that the medications manufactured by the pharmaceutical companies were legal under federal and state law,

and therefore they could not be considered drug dealers to allow for the lawsuit under the Act. Several other lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies for opioids are still moving through the court system in Tennessee.



Wisconsin

A new **report** released by the Wisconsin Controlled Substances Board shows opioid

prescriptions in the state have decreased by 32% since 2014. The board collects data through the state's PDMP and issues reports regarding opioid prescriptions and the use of the PDMP each quarter.



State of the States



This week, the Illinois legislature successfully voted to override Governor

Rauner's veto of **SB 904**. The bill allows medical providers to

charge a 1% interest rate for late payments for services provided to an injured worker. Insurers and employers are required to respond to a bill for service within 30 days either accepting and paying the bill or providing an explanation of the rejection.

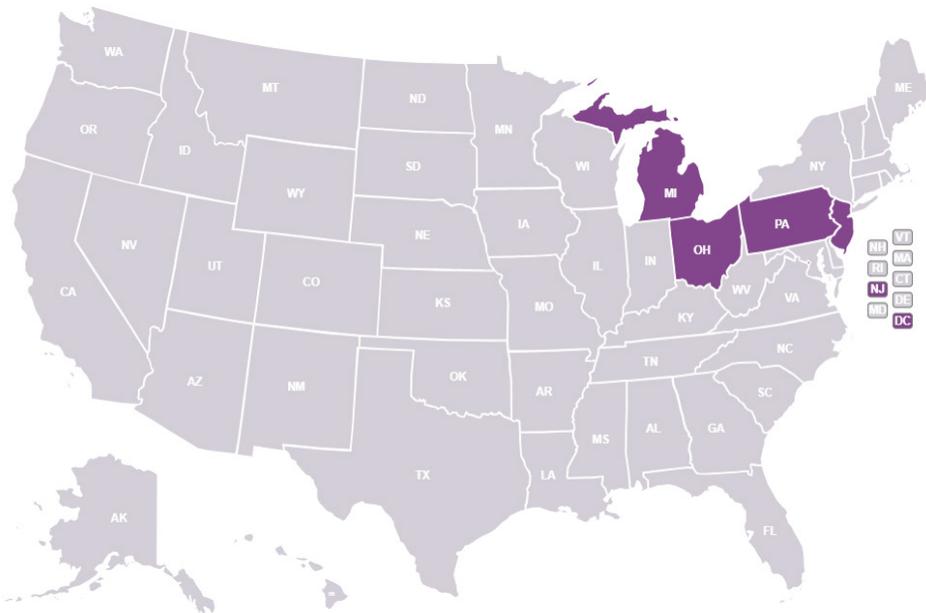
Industry News

This week, The Hartford **launched** an online addiction education portal. The online program is targeting employers to help them better address employees addicted to opioids and helps them identify signs of addiction, risk factors, and tips for talking to someone about addiction. Beginning January 1, The Hartford will also begin supplying prescription disposal bags to all injured workers covered by their workers' comp policies.

States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



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

Danielle is in New Orleans for the Democratic Governors Association Annual Meeting over the weekend and then in the Home Office the rest of the week preparing for the 2019 legislative session.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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