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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

July 13, 2018

State of the States



Earlier this week, the Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee

released an **updated version** of H. 4470, Governor Baker's opioid legislation. The bill calls for the adoption of a workers' comp opioid drug formulary and requires electronic prescribing for all Schedule II prescriptions. The bill is expected to be up for a House vote shortly.



The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation **posted** a Notice of Rules Under Review which

includes updates to the state's workers' comp drug formulary. The rule makes minor changes, removing a handful of medications from the formulary and limiting reimbursement for some benzodiazepine medications to once per month.



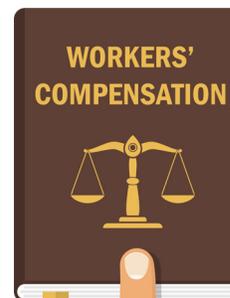
On Monday, the Kentucky Regulatory Advisory Committee held their second meeting. On

the agenda was the expansion of medical benefits beyond 780 weeks and a working session on regulations to implement a new drug formulary. The Committee is looking closely at the Tennessee and Texas formulary models as they work to develop their own. Both of those states currently utilize the ODG workers' comp formulary. Among the topics of conversation was whether the state should adopt a first fill policy under the formulary and how legacy claims should be handled. The next meeting will be on July 30.



This week, the New Hampshire Supreme Court **held** oral arguments in a case that would determine

whether a workers' comp insurer would have to cover medical marijuana, which is legal in New Hampshire. The workers' comp carrier denied the charge and they, along with the N.H. Compensation Appeals Board, argue it is still illegal federally and they therefore cannot be required to cover it.





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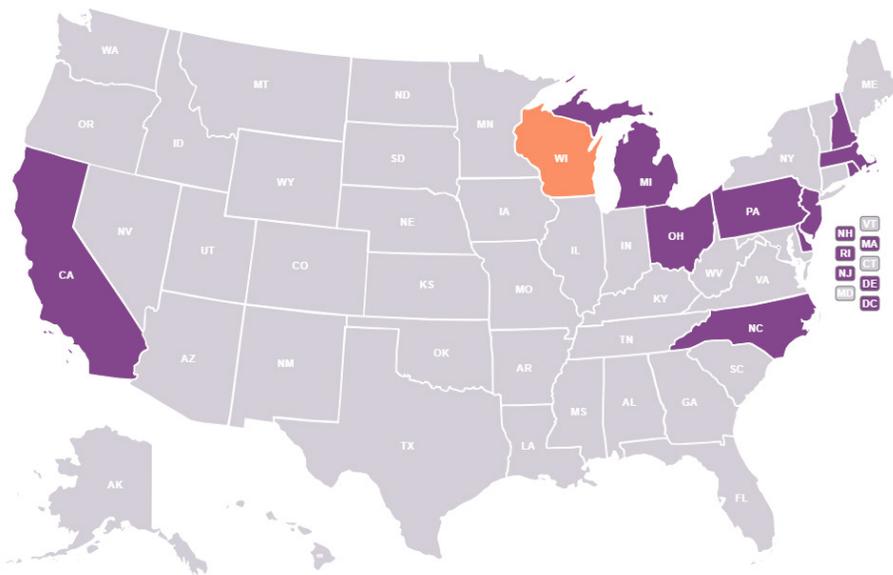
Industry News

CompPharma released their annual [survey](#) report regarding Prescription Drug Management in Workers' Compensation. The survey found a nearly 10% decrease in prescription spend which it attributed to reduced opioids, clinical management programs, and expanded utilization review. Overall, the survey says that prescription drug costs are down 31.5% in the last eight years.

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 Kentucky on Monday and Tuesday for legislative meetings.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us

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