

September 1, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



The Medical Board adopted amended rules to require the first opioid analgesic prescription for the treatment

of acute pain to be for not more than a 7 day supply, with no refills allowed. If continued treatment for acute pain is recommended, the total morphine equivalent dose (MED) of an opioid prescription may not exceed an average of 30 MEDs per day. Exceptions to both the 7 day supply and the MED limit are provided within the rule. The new rules further clarify that extended-release opioids should not

be prescribed for the treatment of acute pain. The rules took effect on August 31st.

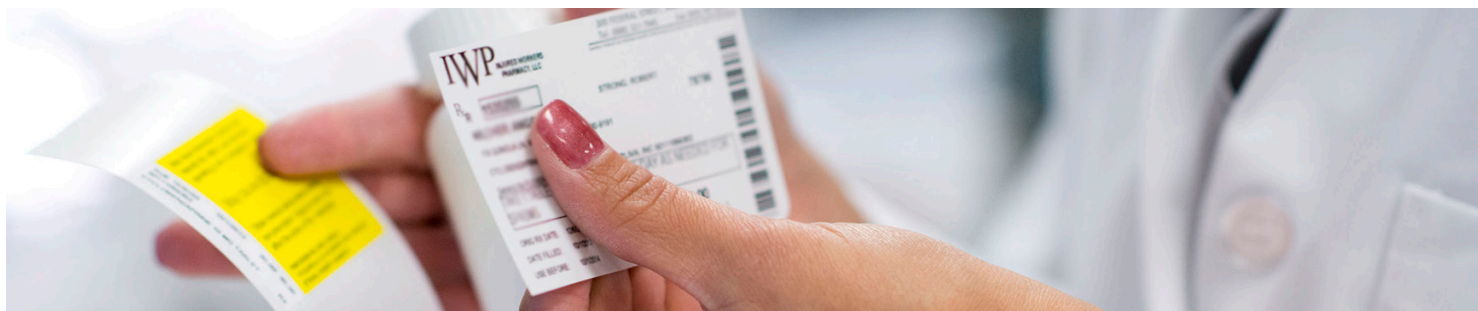


The Workers' Compensation Advisory Council plans to recommend that legislators adopt a Medicare based

medical fee schedule. The proposal is included in the agreed-to bill package that will be submitted to legislators in early 2018. The package also includes a limit on physician dispensing to a 7 day supply.



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is looking for members to serve on a task force on pain management. The board of potentially 30 will make recommendations on best practices for pain management and pain medication prescribing.





State of the States



California Workers' Compensation Institute (CWCI) released [a study](#) this week that

found injured workers with mental health issues are more likely than those without mental health components to be on opioids as part of their treatment. "The average number of opioid prescriptions per claim was higher for injured workers with mental health disorders at all stages of claim development in all 10 accident years, and widened as the claim aged." The study argued that about 60.7% of injured workers have been on opioids by the time their claim

is 5 years old. In comparison, slightly less than half of injured workers without mental health disorders take opioids within their 5 year mark.



On August 24th, the Supreme Court rendered a decision in the longstanding [Kentucky Employers Safety](#)

[Association \(KESA\) v. Injured Workers Pharmacy case](#). The Court ruled in favor of patient choice of pharmacy and found that a pharmacist is considered a medical provider because they provide medical services, in accordance with the statute.



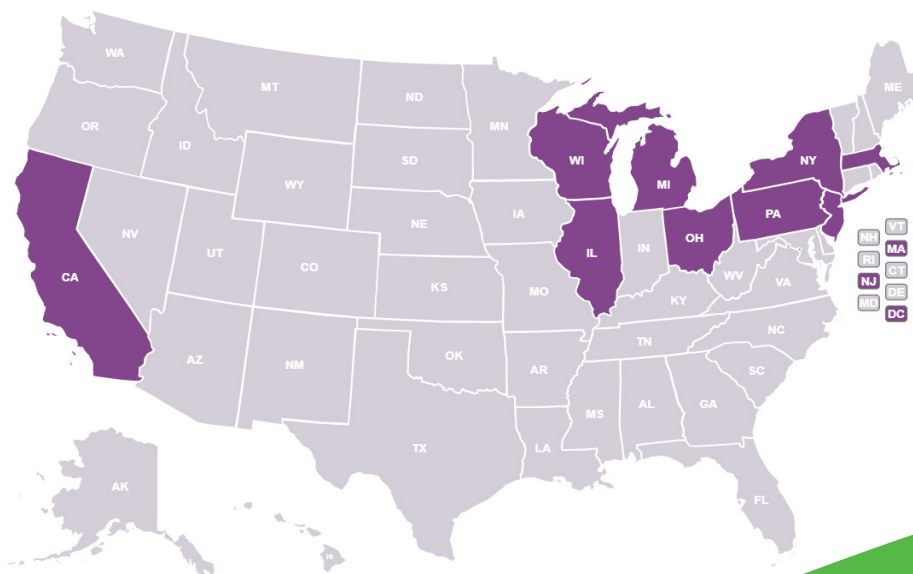
Where in the U.S.A. are Jayne & Danielle?

Jayne and Danielle will be in the home office 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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