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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

September 14, 2018

State of the States



Starting next month, the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) will **launch** a pilot program to address the opioid epidemic. The BWC will spend \$5 million over the next two years on the pilot program that is focused on managing and retaining workers in recovery from opioid addiction. Funding will help businesses train management and supervisors on managing employees in recovery and create a Second-Chance forum for employers to share success stories. The goal of the program is to address employers struggling to fill jobs because otherwise qualified candidates have a history of substance abuse. This will also help employees in recovery receive gainful employment.



With just over two weeks to go before October 1, the Arizona Industrial Commission

released **guidance** documents on the full implementation of the drug formulary to all Arizona workers' comp claims. Since 2016, the state has applied the ODG formulary to cases of chronic pain and opioid use but starting October 1, 2018, the formulary will apply to all injuries and medications under the workers' comp statute.



On Monday, Governor Cuomo **signed** legislation that would extend the time workers and volunteers from the 9/11 World Trade Center cleanup effort have to file for workers' comp benefits. The bill extends the filing deadline to September 11, 2022 and allows those with denied benefits between September 11, 2015 and September 11, 2017 the chance to file for reconsideration. This is the third extension granted by the state.



A class action against the NFL has been **revived** by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. A class action lawsuit by ten former players alleges they were overprescribed opioids, anti-inflammatory medications, and surgical anesthetics without warning of potential side effects during their careers to keep them on the field and playing. As a result, the players allege they now suffer chronic medical conditions and are suing the NFL. Originally the case was dismissed by the lower courts because the NFL argued the issue fell under the player's union contract, but the Court of Appeals disagreed.



State of the States



A newly published study **examined** data from Washington state's Prescription

Drug Monitoring Program to examine injured workers' use of opioids before experiencing an on-the-job injury. The study showed that 90 days before an injury 8.6% of injured workers had used an opioid, and those workers with prior opioid use were more likely to have a compensable claim and be on opioids than those workers who did not use opioids prior to their injury.



The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services has **approved** a

9.6% rate decrease for workers' comp in 2019. This is the sixth straight year of rate decreases for Oregon's workers' comp system, with an overall decrease of 40% since 2013. Lower medical costs and less severe claims are cited for the steady decline in rates.

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

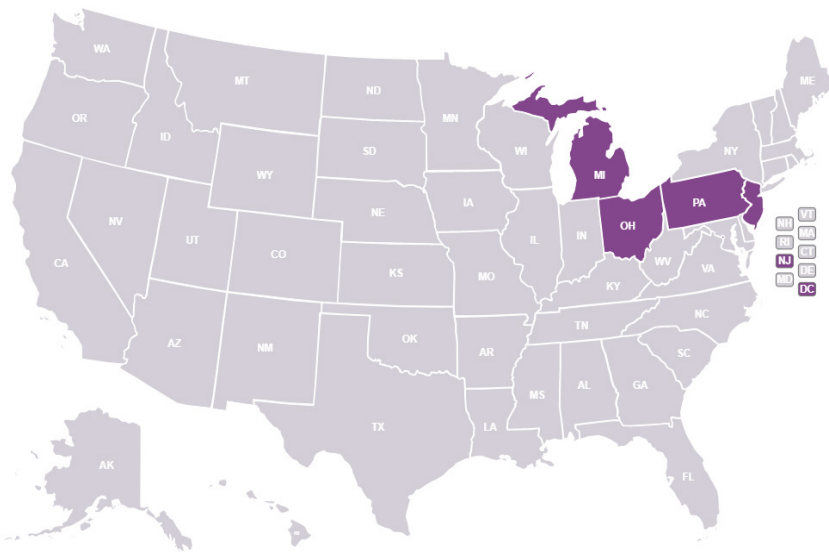
Danielle will be in the home office next week.



States in Session

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Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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