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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

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State of the States



The Florida Division of Workers' Compensation released **proposed** rules to address the

implementation of new workers' comp benefits for PTSD in first responders. The new law, passed by the legislature in March, goes into effect October 1 and covers PTSD in first responders who witness or treat patients who have suffered "grievous bodily harm of a nature that shocks the conscience." Under the proposed rules, events that shock the conscience include decapitation, impalement, and the exposure of the brain, heart, or other organs. Several stakeholders have concerns with the Division specifying what events give rise to a claim, while leaving out others. A public hearing on the rules will be held October 4, three days after the effective date.



On Tuesday, the New Jersey Compensation Rating and Inspection Bureau **filed** a 5.3% rate decrease for workers' comp beginning January 1, 2019. This is the third year in a row New Jersey would see a rate decrease.



On Monday, the Connecticut legislature **approved** former Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra as the new interim Workers' Compensation Commissioner for the state. Segarra will have to be re-nominated for the position in 2019 by the yet-to-be elected Governor and approved by the full General Assembly.



The Texas Department of Insurance released a new **report** that examined access to medical care in the workers' comp system between 2005 and 2017. In 2017, 84% of injured workers received initial medical care in 7 days or less after an injury, a 3% increase from 2005. Additionally, while physicians participating in the workers' comp system remained steady through the years, there was a 20% decrease in claims filed, which resulted in a 24% decrease in patients per participating physician. Additionally, the state saw an increase in participation by emergency medicine specialists and physician assistants.



State of the States

Article of Interest

As we near the November elections, the opioid crisis is **becoming** a top campaign theme across the country, mimicking the spread of the opioid epidemic.

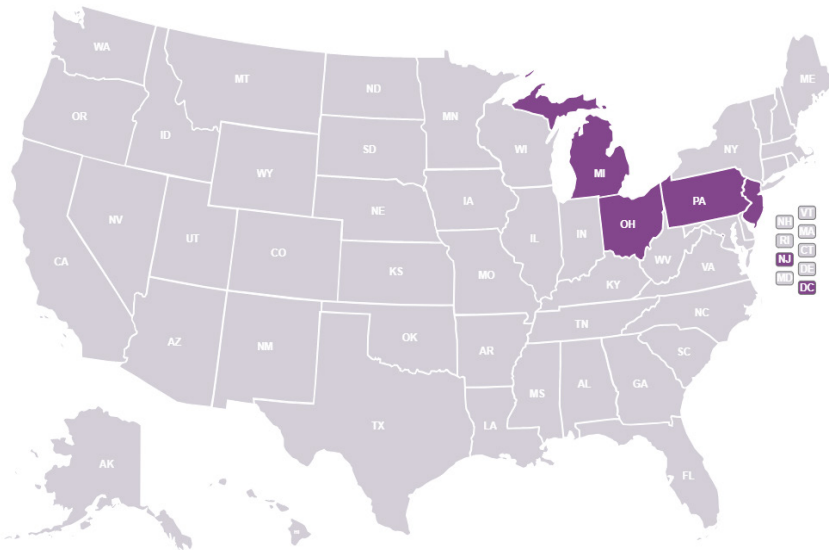
Industry News

A recent NCCI Research **Brief** examined if the Affordable Care Act would reduce workers' comp claims filed on Mondays. Industry insiders have long speculated that often workers' comp claims that are not actually work related are more likely to be filed on Mondays than other days of the week because a non-work claim is more likely to happen over the weekend. The Research Brief found that the share of claims filed on Monday are slightly higher than the share of claims filed on other days of week, but that the ACA has had no noticeable impact on this trend.

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 South Carolina on Monday for the Republican Governors Association Policy Conference and then Oklahoma Tuesday and Wednesday for legislative meetings.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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