



# IWP

The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

November 2, 2018

## State of the States



A new bill introduced this week, in advance of the 2019 legislative session, would deem medical

marijuana just like any other prescription drug when it comes to coverage under workers' compensation insurance. Assembly Bill [A11390](#) is sponsored by Assembly Member Richard Gottfried, D-Manhattan. The bill requires public insurance programs, including Medicaid and workers' compensation, to pay for medical marijuana if prescribed in accordance with state regulations.



The National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) is close to adopting a model piece of

legislation that states could use as a guide when introducing bills to regulate pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs). PBMs would

be required to register with the insurance commissioner in states where they operate. The insurance commissioner would issue rules regarding licensing, financial standards and reporting requirements for the PBMs. The model law defines pharmacy benefit managers as entities that provide pharmacy services to health benefit plans, but the newest version doesn't exclude workers' compensation from the definition. If NCOIL adopts a model law, it would then be up to the states to introduce and pass legislation. This is not a short process and the effort to regulate PBMs, although ramped up recently, has been underway for years with little progress on a national scale.



highlights which states are

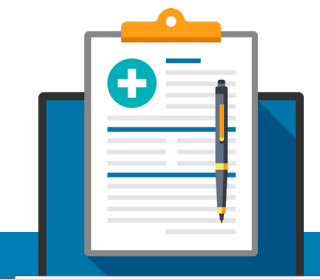
The National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) recently published a [Court Case Update](#) that

pursuing challenges to exclusive remedy, third party guides like AMA and ODG, medical marijuana, air ambulance reimbursements, and other federal and state developments.



Last Saturday was National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. The day aims to "provide a safe,

convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications" according to the DEA. In April 2018, 5,842 approved sites collected 474.5 tons of prescription medications. The results of October will be posted within the next couple weeks.



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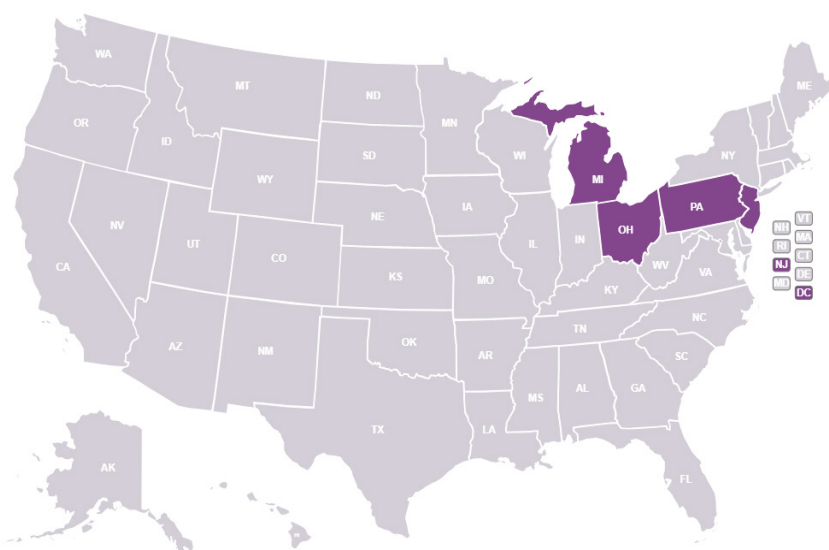
As expected, **HB 353** was signed by the Governor on October 24. The bill requires all opioids to be prescribed electronically. The bill further requires the Department of

Health to develop regulations to implement the electronic prescription mandate within 180 days. Representative Tedd Nesbit sponsored the bill and claims the legislation will reduce fraud and theft of opioid prescriptions by sending orders directly to the patient's pharmacy.

## States in Session

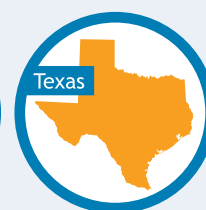
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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



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

Danielle was in California this week for her honeymoon. Congrats Danielle! Next week Jayne will be joining the Senior team in Texas for ride-alongs and an off-site strategy meeting.



## Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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