



The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

November 4, 2016

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



On Monday, the United States Supreme Court [denied](#) the petition for review in Stahl v. Hialeah Hospital.

The case, which argues changes to the Florida workers' comp system have eroded benefits to the point it is no longer adequate and unconstitutional, had made its way to the Supreme Court after the state Supreme Court declined to rule on the case earlier this year. However, other provisions of the system have been declared unconstitutional this year, including caps on attorney's fees and temporary disability benefits.

Since the Zika virus made headlines in Florida earlier this year, discussions about possible workers' comp coverage, and the uphill battle to get a claim accepted, have swirled. Now, as two cops have filed workers'

comp claims for Zika in Miami, it's [becoming](#) clear just how hard it could be. The City of Miami Beach issued a statement that to file a claim an officer must show the infection took place while on duty and identify the specific infected mosquito, a task claimant attorney's point out is nearly impossible.



In the final days of the Pennsylvania legislative session, [several opioid](#) related bills were passed

and signed into law by Governor Wolf on Wednesday. Among the new laws are rules that limit opioid prescriptions to a 7-day fill for minors, requiring doctors to consult the PDMP before prescribing opioids, and a requirement on pharmacies to report dispensing of controls within 24 hours, something IWP already does in all 50 states.



State of the States



The Office of Workers' Compensation Administration released a proposed rule

change following the division's public hearings across the state. The proposal amends the medical treatment guidelines to account for ICD-10 coding and more uniform billing. The Director, Judge Kellar, also announced efforts to use the administrative rule-making process to deal with further changes to the treatment guidelines, as well as establishing an e-filing system.



The NCCI released its fall Workers' Compensation Issues Report this week.

Among the key findings the report states that medical severity has decreased for the first time in nearly 20 years and paid medical costs per claim have decreased 1%.

Article of Interest

The opioid epidemic has been a big topic of conversation this year in legislatures and on the campaign trail. However, in the last few months, as the presidential candidates circle key states, some of which have the highest death rates in the opioid epidemic, the topic has faded away.



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

Jayne and Danielle will be in the home office next week preparing for the 2017 session.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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