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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

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Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



Last week the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) released its [annual report](#) on the state's 2013

workers' comp reforms. Among its conclusions, implementing a workers' comp drug formulary is hard. The BWC found that many people lacked understanding of the prescription fill process under the formulary, and that the large number of players involved created too much complexity for most workers to understand the formulary. Further, the BWC noted significant pushback from injured workers on long-term opioid treatment plans.



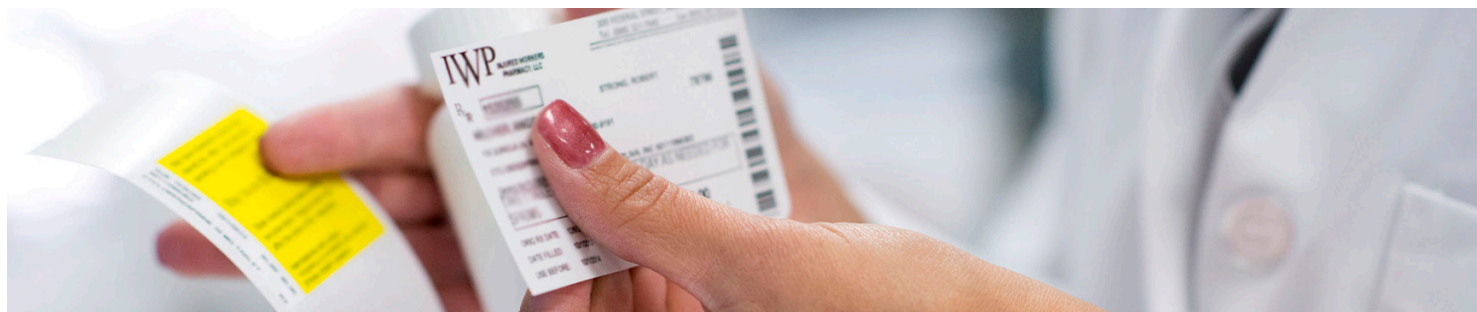
The Senate Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations voted to approve [AB 44](#).

The bill would require employers to immediately provide advocacy services to help employees injured in acts of domestic terrorism obtain medical care and assist providers in getting their treatment authorized and paid. The hearing for the bill raised other questions about all injured workers' access to treatment and the role of utilization review in delaying needed treatment. The bill is still undergoing amendments to clarify its provisions.



After over two years, Illinois finally has a budget! Last Thursday, just days behind the Senate,

the House voted to override the Governor's veto of their budget bills. The act puts the budget, focused primarily on tax increases, into place for the state just six (6) days after the start of their fiscal year. All workers' comp reforms, including the adoption of a drug formulary, were dropped from the bills prior to their passage. Bipartisan reform of workers' comp [looks](#) to be on hold until the gubernatorial campaign in 2018.





State of the States



The Arkansas Medical Board released a proposed regulation requiring

physicians and physician assistants to query the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program every time they prescribe a Schedule II and Schedule III to a patient and the first time they prescribe a benzodiazepine medication to a patient. The regulation implements a law passed by the legislature in 2017.



Governor Abbot has called the legislature back into town for a 30-day special session focused on the

continued operation of some key governmental agencies, including the state Medical Board. The Governor outlined additional topics he would like the legislature to consider, but none that impact workers' comp or pharmacy at this time. The special session starts next week.

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

Jayne and Danielle will be in the home office next week.



Article of Interest

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released its annual study of opioid prescribing across the country. The study found that 50% of counties in the U.S. saw a reduction in opioid prescriptions but the amount of opioids prescribed per person in 2015 was still three times as high as the amount prescribed in 1999.

Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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States in Session

