

June 10, 2016

## Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

### State of the States



California's Workers' Compensation Institute issued a new **report** last week finding that results from

the state's Independent Medical Review (IMR) process from the first quarter of 2016 remain consistent with past years. The report found that almost 90 percent of IMR requests uphold a utilization review doctor's modification or denial of treatment. Notably, prescription drugs equal close to half of all IMR requests.



The state faces yet another **challenge** to its 2014 reforms, this time regarding Oklahoma's

state employees' workers' compensation plan. The 2014 reforms shifted all public employees to a self-insured plan, which plaintiffs argue is not properly licensed by the state nor correctly established to ensure adequate financial security to cover injured workers claims.



Seven U.S. Senators continue to push for the passage of **legislation** that would tax opioids 1 cent per milligram to help fund substance abuse programs nationwide. A fiscal report on the bill estimates it would raise \$1.5 to \$2.0 billion a year.

#### Article of Interest

A newly released **study** examines the impact of Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs) in 24 states over the course of nine years. The study found that PDMPs resulted in an immediate and lasting reduction in prescribing of Schedule II drugs in the states.



# State of the States



After weeks of back and forth between the House and the Senate, legislators passed a **bill**

to establish the Louisiana Commission on Preventing Opioid Abuse to study and make recommendations to the legislature regarding methods for combating opioid abuse in the state. The Commission, composed of representatives from several state boards, including the Board of Pharmacy, will present their findings to the legislature by next February, giving the legislature time to consider bills implementing their recommendations.



Not to be held back by the state legislature's inability to pass Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

(PDMP) legislation again this year, the city of St. Louis and St. Louis County both **signed** into law bills establishing county and city PDMPs. The programs will work together to track controlled substance prescriptions in the area and expect to be operational by the end of 2016.



The Senate Committee on Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens voted to pass **S2035**, a bill that

would limit initial prescriptions of Schedule II drugs to a 7-day supply. Similar legislation became law earlier this year in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The bill now waits to be considered by the full Senate.



With less than a week left in the legislative session, it appears two bills targeting opioid abuse will

not make it out of committee in time to be considered by the full legislature. The bills would have required initial **fill limits** on opioids and required **pharmacists** dispensing an opioid to include a pamphlet with warnings related to the risks of using controlled substances.

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

Jayne will be in the home office and Danielle will be in Greenwich, Connecticut for the Democratic Governors Association's Policy Conference.



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

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