

July 15, 2016

## Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

### State of the States



On Monday, the Pennsylvania House and Senate passed [SB 514](#), which allows a pharmacist to

substitute generic equivalent drugs and clarifies what a pharmacist must do when substituting a generic equivalent for a patient. The bill was presented to the Governor for his signature on Tuesday and if signed by the Governor, the law will go into effect in 60 days.



Newly released [data](#) finds that opioid prescribing has decreased in the second quarter of 2016.

Nationwide there is a 7.8% decrease, but Massachusetts has the largest decrease with 13.3%. Massachusetts passed opioid legislation earlier this year, with many provisions already in effect.



Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have voted to pass compromise legislation for the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA) before adjourning for summer recess. Among its [provisions](#), CARA will create a task force to review best practices for chronic and acute pain treatment, increase access to PDMP state grants, expand drug take back programs and clarify partial fill requirements for schedule II prescriptions. President Obama is expected to sign the legislation.





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The Tennessee Advisory Council for Workers' Compensation's [annual report](#) estimates that the state's new

drug formulary can reduce system wide costs by 2.7%. The drug formulary went into effect this past February for new injuries.

### Article of Interest

A new [report](#) published in Health Affairs found that in states with legalized medical marijuana there were fewer opioid prescriptions issued for Medicare Part D patients. Several states with legalized medicinal marijuana, including Minnesota and Ohio, are dealing with its implications for workers' compensation programs.



[Legislation](#) removing all references to ACOEM medical guidelines for independent medical

reviews conducted as part of a medical provider network was unanimously passed by both the House and Senate this week. The Sponsor of the bill, Senator Mendoza, is responsible for many of the small fix bills making their way through the legislature this year, including legislation that would have required all workers' compensation treatment guidelines to be updated every five years.

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

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



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

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