

August 19, 2016

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



The president of the Massachusetts Medical Society issued a [statement](#) this week urging all

doctors in the state to enroll in the state's prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP). Currently, only 25% of Massachusetts doctors are enrolled in the PDMP, but a new version, the Massachusetts Prescription Awareness Tool launches next week, and starting October 15th, all MA doctors will need to query the PDMP before prescribing a Schedule II or III narcotic for the first time.



This week, the Division of Workers' Compensation's [updated](#) Medical Treatment Utilization

Schedule was approved. The regulation updates focus on chronic pain medical treatment guidelines and adopt opioid treatment guidelines. The new guidelines include best practices to increase safe usage of pain management medications. The new guidelines apply to all treatment requests after July 29, 2016.



A new [study](#) finds that diagnoses of opioid dependence have increased over 3000% since 2007, and the number of medical services associated with an opioid dependence diagnosis increased from 217,000 to almost 7 million in 2014. The report also notes that opioid dependency is more common in males, aged 19-35.



State of the States



On Tuesday, the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation held a lengthy [hearing](#) on whether or not

to approve a 19.6% rate increase. The dramatic increase is due, in part, to a state Supreme Court ruling removing caps on attorney's fees. The rate, which if approved, will go into effect in October, has spurred activity from all sides of the debate on 2017 legislative proposals to rework the state's workers' comp.



New [analysis](#) by the Texas Department of Insurance found that the formulary, implemented

five years ago, continues to lower prescription drug costs and opioid prescriptions in the

state's workers' compensation program. The analysis found that overall system costs were down 15% and costs associated with N-drugs were down 80%.



The Kentucky Workers' Compensation Task Force, created by 2016 legislation, [held](#) its first meeting

to begin its work studying the state's workers' compensation system. The Task Force will develop recommendations for the system in the hopes of ensuring delivery of benefits to injured workers and an improved administrative process for the state. At the first meeting, the CEO of Workers' Compensation Research Institute was invited to present Kentucky specific findings.

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

Jayne will be in the home office and Danielle will be in California for the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' summer meeting at the end of the week.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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Article of Interest

As the opioid epidemic continues to grow, scientists are [working](#) to create a new a new opioid that relieves pain without the life threatening and dependency creating side effects.

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