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November 16, 2018

State of the States



Georgia

On Wednesday, the Georgia House Industry and Labor Committee held a meeting to discuss workers' compensation prior to the start of the 2019 legislative session. The Committee discussed the workers' comp system and potential reforms, including limits on opioid prescriptions. The Georgia legislative session starts on January 14, 2019 and runs for 40 days.



Illinois

The Illinois Senate voted 55-1 to override Governor Rauner's veto of **SB 904**. The bill allows workers' comp physicians to charge a 1% interest when carriers do not pay their bill in a timely fashion. The veto must also be passed by the Illinois House before the bill can become law.



New Jersey

The New Jersey Attorney General has filed another **lawsuit** against Janssen Pharmaceuticals, an opioid drug maker, claiming deceptive marketing that drove up the cost of health insurance and workers' compensation for New Jersey state employees. This marks the third lawsuit filed by the NJ AG against opioid manufacturers and one of dozens filed across the country by various states and counties.



Colorado

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment has announced their 2019 regulatory **agenda** which calls for a review of the state's workers' compensation rules for efficiency. The goal of the Department in 2019 is to reduce red tape by clarifying rules and improving efficiency in the system

overall. The regulatory agenda also includes an annual review of the medical treatment guidelines and a crackdown on employee misclassification.



Florida

The Florida Division of Workers' Compensation has **released** a new draft medical fee schedule as they prepare for the 2019 legislative session. The schedule, which raises reimbursements for most hospitals and doctors, requires approval from the state legislature, something they haven't done in several years.



State of the States

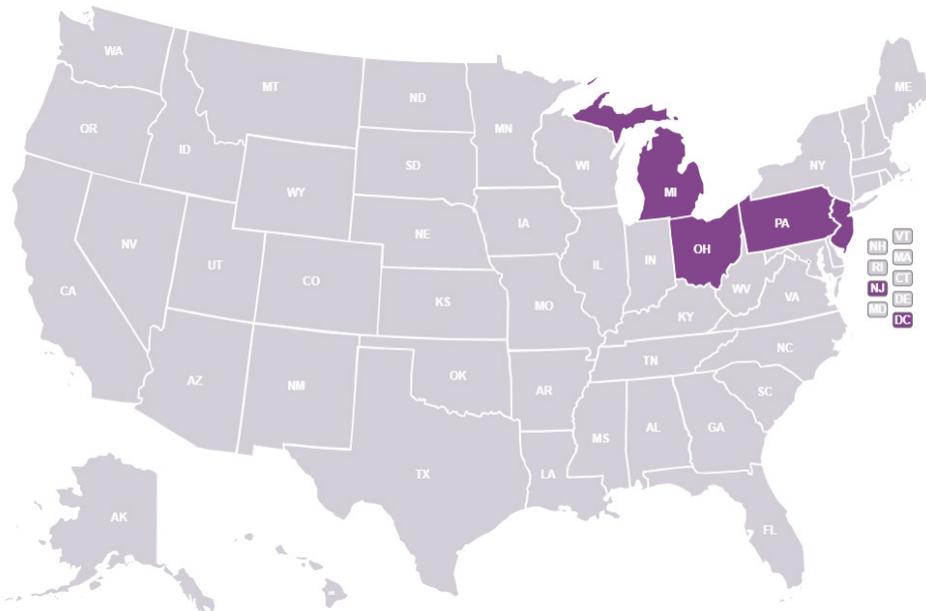
Industry News

Earlier this month the U.S. Food and Drug Administration **approved** Dsuvia, a new opioid medication that is 1,000 times more potent than morphine and 10 times stronger than fentanyl. The drug is approved for use in a medically-supervised health care setting, such as emergency rooms and hospitals. In the approval announcement, the FDA Commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, discussed the future consideration of new opioids and called on the FDA to consider whether new opioids are sufficiently better than existing drugs to justify their addition to the market in light of the opioid epidemic.

States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



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

Danielle will be in the home office the first half of the week and then off for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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