

September 30, 2016

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



This week, the Florida Insurance Commissioner **rejected** the NCCI's proposed 19.6% rate

increase, opting instead for a 14.5% increase that leaves business and claimant's attorneys unhappy. Pressure is building on legislators to respond when they are back in session in January, and this week Senate majority leader, Bill Galvano, said the legislature will tackle it but not with an overhaul of the state's workers' compensation system. Instead changes will be limited

to addressing the court cases causing the rate increase.



Governor Brown signed into law **SB 482**, expanding requirement on prescribers to use the state's

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The new law requires all prescribers to consult the PDMP within a day of prescribing Schedule II, III, or IV substances to a patient for the first time, and must continue to check the system at least every four months if the substance remains part of the treatment plan.



The American Chronic Pain Association issued a new **report** highlighting the impact of opioid restriction legislation on patients getting access to needed medication. One key finding in the report is that 56% of patients surveyed reported difficulties in obtaining a pain medication prescription from their physicians.





State of the States



A **bill** that would extend workers' compensation benefits to volunteer first responders injured on state

gaming land passed the Senate Labor and Industry committee. The bill is in response to the gap in coverage that currently provides benefits to volunteer first responders injured in state parks or forests, but does not extend to other state lands. The bill will now go before the full Senate.



Last year the Michigan legislature passed a bill establishing the state's firefighter presumption

fund that pays benefits for first responders diagnosed with certain cancers. Building on the new law, the legislature now has **bills** in both houses to include breast cancer in the list of covered diseases.

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

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



Article of Interest

As prescription drug monitoring programs continue to be used as a prominent tool in combating the opioid epidemic, doctors **raise** concerns about its impact on patient privacy.

Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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