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HARRISBURG — Health insurance companies made the case for double-digit rate increases next year for individual policies in Pennsylvania at a regulatory hearing Wednesday. The requests before the Insurance Department include proposed average rate increases ranging from 17.2 percent for Aetna Health Inc., 25.4 percent to... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 07-27-2016 [PDA: The Role of Dentistry in Prescribing Opioids](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-27-2016 [Pa., U.S. push attention to opioids abuse crisis](#)
Editor's note: This is the second in a five-day series about heroin and its impact on Centre County. Next we will look at the impact on law enforcement and the courts. Additional installments will focus on medical and counseling services and families and addicts.... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 07-27-2016 [Heroin epidemic hitting close to home](#)
Editor's note: This is the first in a five-day series about heroin and its effect on Centre County. On Wednesday, in addition to coverage of the town hall, we will look closer at the federal and state response. Additional installments will look at the effect on law enforcement; medical... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 07-27-2016 [Performance audit of state Health Department IDs 3 major issues](#)
HARRISBURG - A state Health Department performance audit conducted by Auditor General Eugene DePasquale and released Tuesday highlighted 13 findings and 23 recommendations. The three major issue areas were identified: An inadequate review of nurse staffing levels, which require 2.7 hours... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 07-27-2016 [State makes progress on opioid front](#)
Gov. Tom Wolf's administration continues to gain headway in the struggle against Pennsylvania's drug-addiction crisis. Last week, Wolf and top state officials unveiled voluntary guidelines for prescribing and dispensing opioid pain medications. The recommendations,... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 07-26-2016 [PAMED Applauds Steps in Adoption of Opioid Guidelines](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-26-2016 [More employers offering telemedicine benefits](#)
Telemedicine is increasingly becoming a key health benefit in many employer-sponsored health plans. According to the National Business Group on Health, 48 percent of surveyed employers offered telemedicine benefits in 2015. So far this year, that number has jumped to 74 percent.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 07-26-2016 [In fight against addiction, dentists turn away from opioids](#)
Most people who get their wisdom teeth removed go home with a prescription for Vicodin, a commonly prescribed painkiller that for many likely provided their first experience with an opioid. As opioids fuel a national addiction crisis, some dentists are rethinking... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 07-26-2016 [Heroin epidemic hitting close to home](#)
Editor's note: This is the first in a five-day series about heroin and its effect on Centre County. On

Wednesday, in addition to coverage of the town hall, we will look closer at the federal and state response. Additional installments will look at the effect on law enforcement; medical... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)

- 07-26-2016 [Geisinger named among nation's 'Most Wired' providers](#)
July 26, 2016 DANVILLE — Geisinger Health System has been listed for the 14th consecutive year among the country's "Most Wired Hospitals and Health Systems" by American Hospital Association's Health Forum, accord... more »» - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 07-26-2016 [Advocates call on state to offer buprenorphine to opioid addicts in jails, prisons](#)
As opioid addiction rises, public health advocates in Maryland are calling for more treatment where many addicts end up: in jails and prisons. In Maryland, only Baltimore and a few counties offer any treatment in their jails. The state-run jail in Baltimore offers only detoxification. The... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 07-25-2016 [VA offers alternative to opioid pain management](#)
After four years of opioid treatments, Jim Pershing had had enough. Mr. Pershing served three tours of duty in Vietnam as a Radioman for the navy. There, he became exposed to Agent Orange, which caused him to develop lymphoma decades after he left the service. Chemotherapy treatments left... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 07-25-2016 [Local leaders, physician general address drug abuse](#)
A high-ranking official with the Wolf administration was in town this week to talk with local leaders who are working to combat drug abuse. Thursday night, Physician General Dr. Rachel Levine met for an informal dinner with members of the Venango County Drug Overdose Task Force and... - [Oil City Derrick](#)
- 07-24-2016 [Study: High rate of opioid use among Medicare recipients](#)
A research letter published Wednesday in JAMA Psychiatry found that Medicare beneficiaries had the highest and most rapidly growing rate of "opioid use disorder." Six of every 1,000 recipients struggle with the condition, compared with one out of every 1,000 patients covered through... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 07-22-2016 [Ending opioid abuse in Pennsylvania](#)
It's not just about reducing the supply. By Dr. Merle Carter Substance Use Disorder is a serious illness and a widespread problem across Pennsylvania. We see the effects of SUD daily in our emergency departments. Patients with SUD suffer overdoses, which are sometimes fatal; lost time... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 07-22-2016 [Valley police save 4 with Narcan](#)
Mount Carmel Township police used anti-overdose medication to treat a 23-year-old man suffering an alleged heroin overdose early Thursday along a township roadway, according to Police Chief Brian Hollenbush. It marks the second time township police administered Narcan this month to... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 07-22-2016 [Hazle supers approve plans for health care center](#)
A proposal to build a health care center in the Humboldt Industrial Park is back on track. Lehigh Valley-based Coordinated Health, which has operated a clinic in the Church Hill Mall for three years, got approval from the Hazle Township supervisors Wednesday afternoon to build a 42,000-square-foot walk-in... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 07-22-2016 [In Franklin Co., assistance with drug use nowhere in sight](#)
FRANKLIN COUNTY - While heroin addiction and overdoses continue to worry community members and Franklin County officials, recovering drug addicts are also finding themselves with few options locally when seeking help for their addictions. Frequent questions at a May town hall meeting and Community Film Night... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)
- 07-22-2016 [Parties join forces in opioid crisis; Benninghoff helps lead the effort](#)
July 22, 2016 HARRISBURG — This summer and fall, Republicans and Democrats in the state

Legislature are joining forces to attempt to tackle the state's opioid crisis. more »» - [Lock Haven Express](#)

- 07-21-2016 [House Republican and Democratic Policy Committees Join Forces to Tackle...](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-21-2016 [In the hospital? Know your health care team and ask them lots of questions](#)
So annoying, right? All those different health care professionals you talk to when you are in the hospital. All you want to do is get answers from “the” doctor. More and more health care is provided by teams of doctors, nurses, social workers, and others. And you, the patient—along with your family and... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 07-21-2016 [State boards approve new guidelines for prescribing opioids](#)
HARRISBURG, Pa. State regulators are giving their OK to new parameters for distributing and prescribing opioids in Pennsylvania... - [AP](#)
- 07-21-2016 [Progress on opioid front](#)
Gov. Tom Wolf's administration continues to gain headway in the struggle against Pennsylvania's drug-addiction crisis. On Tuesday, Mr. Wolf and top state officials unveiled voluntary guidelines for prescribing and dispensing opioid pain medications. The recommendations, aimed at reducing the overprescription of narcotics such as... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 07-21-2016 [Milford doctor faces major federal drug charges](#)
A Pike County physician, Fuhai Li, has been indicted on charges of unlawfully distributing controlled substances without a legitimate medical purpose, money laundering, and tax evasion, the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania has announced.... - [Pocono Record](#)
- 07-21-2016 [Fed opioid bill lacks funds to make it work](#)
WILLIAMSPORT — Legislation aimed at treating addiction to heroin and prescription opioids isn't effective without the funds to put the plan into action, according to U.S. Sen. Robert Casey. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act calls for grant money to... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 07-21-2016 [Philadelphia doctor charged with drug trafficking in Upper Merion](#)
COURTHOUSE >> A Philadelphia physician who allegedly provided and administered drugs to a woman he met on a “sugar daddy” website was arrested Wednesday, Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced. Sean Gragam Fogler, 47, of the 1900 block of Hamilton Street, was charged... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)
- 07-21-2016 [New facilities open in Lancaster to treat addiction](#)
Two addiction-treatment facilities are expanding to help carry the load of the growing opioid crisis in Lancaster County. T.W. Ponessa & Associates, at 410 N. Prince St., will become one of 20 new state-designated “Centers of Excellence” located across the state... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 07-20-2016 [Governor Wolf Continues Fight Against Opioid Epidemic in Pennsylvania \(Round-up\)](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-20-2016 [Senator Leach Introduces Bill to Repeal Unconstitutional Abortion Clinic...](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-20-2016 [State won't say which hospitals made mistakes](#)
By Nick KepplerPublicSource Last year, 253 people in Pennsylvania died under circumstances for which a medical professional may have been responsible. The state knows where these deaths happens — which hospitals, care homes and other medical facilities — but it doesn't allow you to know.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

- 07-19-2016 [**Wolf Administration Announces New Opioid Prescribing Guideline Recommendations**](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-19-2016 [**Gov. Wolf Highlights Opioid And Heroin Overdose Initiatives**](#)
(Around the Capital)
- 07-19-2016 [**Addiction recovery app makes its debut**](#)
Ryan Brannon saw the need for a mobile app to help recovering addicts of his generation when he was a student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania two years ago. With a team of 13 friends and people he found through college networking or online advertisements, Brannon formed a nonprofit, raised \$70,000 and is... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 07-19-2016 [**In Allentown, a more 'excellent' approach to fighting heroin**](#)
ALLENTOWN — For heroin addicts and their families, the drug's deadly grip is rarely the only problem. Mental illness and physical health problems go hand in hand with drug addiction, yet most addicts — 68 percent — who make it through detox receive no treatment for their other problems.... - [*Allentown Morning Call*](#)
- 07-19-2016 [**Soothing the pain**](#)
July 19, 2016 Opioids often have been prescribed for patients suffering from pain caused by injuries and serious medical problems such as cancer, but health care professionals say there also often is an... more »» - [*Williamsport Sun-Gazette*](#)
- 07-19-2016 [**Drug task force announces expert speaker event, treatment resources**](#)
The Crawford County Task Force on Heroin and Opiate Prevention and Education (HOPE), in collaboration with Meadville Medical Center, announces two new initiatives to educate the community about the current opioid epidemic and to support those families seeking information on treatment... - [*Meadville Tribune*](#)
- 07-19-2016 [**Pa. boards of pharmacy and medicine approve new opioid prescribing guidelines**](#)
The state Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Medicine today approved new guidelines for distributing and prescribing opioids. While the Board of Pharmacy's vote came quickly in open session, the Board of Medicine's vote to approve two sets of opioid prescribing... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 07-18-2016 [**Pitt researchers taking new approach on opioid epidemic**](#)
Christina Mair has a question: What causes addiction? Studying alcohol and marijuana use in California, Ms. Mair focused on the social determinants that might lead to dependency. While genetics play a role, she learned, it's often environmental factors that lead a user to take his first hit (or sip). Everything from a... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 07-18-2016 [**Programs, policies seek to help hard-to-reach groups of heroin, opioid addicts**](#)
One of the groups of heroin/opioid addicts most likely to have a fatal overdose is also one of the hardest to reach, experts say. Of the 3,383 people who died of drug overdoses in Pennsylvania in 2015, white males between the ages of 30 and 39 accounted for 15 percent of the... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 07-18-2016 [**State representative wants to sue opioid manufacturers**](#)
A lawmaker from Berks County is asking his colleagues in the state House to take up calls for the state to sue companies that manufacture and market addiction-causing painkillers. In a memo to legislators Thursday, state Rep. Thomas R. Caltagirone said he plans to introduce a resolution urging Gov. Tom Wolf and Attorney General... - [*Reading Eagle*](#)
- 07-18-2016 [**DEA analysis: Heroin, fentanyl leading causes of Beaver County overdose deaths**](#)
Thirty-seven people in Beaver County died from drug overdoses in 2015, with more than 60 percent of them dying from a heroin or fentanyl overdose. That's according to a statewide overdose death analysis that was recently released by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's... - [*Beaver County Times*](#)

- 07-18-2016 [**DEA: Drug overdose deaths up sharply in Pennsylvania**](#)
PHILADELPHIA >> A new report issued Tuesday by the Drug Enforcement Agency paints an exceedingly grim picture of the drug crisis engulfing Pennsylvania, although there is a shred of positive news for Montgomery County contained within its sobering pages. In 2015, there were 3,383 drug overdose deaths in the state, which marks a... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)
- 07-15-2016 [**CORRECTED: Neuman applauds local center's selection as opioid treatment hub**](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-15-2016 [**NGA: Governors Sign Compact to Fight Opioid Addiction**](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-15-2016 [**Gov. Wolf announces 20 new centers to coordinate opioid addiction treatment**](#)
Pennsylvania will open 20 centers around the state by fall to coordinate care for people addicted to opioids, the Wolf administration announced Thursday. - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 07-15-2016 [**Berks clinic will be part of state's fight against opioid abuse**](#)
Gov. Tom Wolf's efforts to take a new approach to fighting the heroin and opioid drug abuse crisis on Thursday led to the announcement of New Directions Treatment Services - Berks County's only methadone clinic - as one of 20 "Centers of Excellence" that will begin operating in the next... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 07-15-2016 [**York County named location for opioid treatment center**](#)
York County-based Pennsylvania Counseling Center was named one of 20 existing care providers statewide that will serve as opioid treatment centers in an effort to combat the heroin epidemic. Called Centers of Excellence, the centers will take a holistic approach to... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 07-14-2016 [**MEMO: What We Have Achieved**](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-14-2016 [**DHS: Wolf Administration Addressing Addiction Treatment Differently**](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-14-2016 [**HAP: State Budget Shows Commitment to Pennsylvania Health Care**](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-14-2016 [**DHS Secretary Announces Resources to Fight Opioid Crisis**](#)
(Around the Capital)
- 07-14-2016 [**Pennsylvania overdose deaths surged in 2015**](#)
Drug overdose deaths in Pennsylvania surged last year, driven in part by Lehigh County's relatively high mortality rate. Nearly 3,400 overdose deaths were reported across Pennsylvania, an increase of 23 percent over 2014, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reported... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 07-14-2016 [**Feds crack down on ads targeting people addicted to heroin or painkillers**](#)
People addicted to painkillers, heroin and other opioids can be desperate, looking for any way to break the habit and fight through the ugly period of withdrawal. There's no miracle solution, so don't be tricked into buying one. A Florida company recently settled a federal probe accusing it of... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 07-14-2016 [**Pennsylvania overdose deaths surged in 2015**](#)
Drug overdose deaths in Pennsylvania surged last year, driven in part by Lehigh County's relatively high mortality rate. Nearly 3,400 overdose deaths were reported across Pennsylvania, an

increase of 23 percent over 2014, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reported... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

07-14-2016

[Overdose toll affirms crisis](#)

New federal data erase any lingering doubt about Pennsylvania's worsening drug epidemic. Overdose deaths in the state totaled 3,383 in 2015, the Drug Enforcement Agency's Philadelphia division reported Tuesday. It was a 23 percent increase over the prior year. Regional 2015 trends are even more unsettling... - [Scranton Times](#)

07-14-2016

[Drug deaths rise 23% in PA](#)

Eight of 10 fatal drug overdoses last year in Pennsylvania involved heroin or prescription opioids in a year that saw a 23 percent rise in drug-related deaths, according to a new report. The Philadelphia division of the Drug Enforcement Agency says 3,383 people... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

07-14-2016

[Senate Approves Bill to Combat Opioid Addiction Crisis](#)

The Senate on Wednesday approved a bill to tackle the nation's opioid crisis, sending to the president's desk the most sweeping drug legislation in years in a rare instance of consensus in Congress. The measure, which passed, 92 to 2, would strengthen prevention, treatment... - [New York Times](#)

07-14-2016

[Fatal drug overdoses increased 43 percent in Lancaster County last year, data shows](#)

Lancaster County Coroner Stephen Diamantoni predicted early last year that drug overdoses would soon reach record levels here. He was right. The number of fatal drug overdoses in Lancaster County spiked at a rate that was twice as rapid than in the rest of Pennsylvania in 2015, data... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

07-14-2016

[York County named location for opioid treatment center](#)

York County-based Pennsylvania Counseling Center was named one of 20 existing care providers statewide that will serve as opioid treatment centers in an effort to combat the heroin epidemic. Called Centers of Excellence, the centers will take a holistic approach to... - [York Dispatch](#)

07-14-2016

[Gov. Wolf announces 20 new centers to coordinate opioid addiction treatment](#)

Pennsylvania will open 20 centers around the state by fall to coordinate care for people addicted to opioids, the Wolf administration announced Thursday. The centers - six of them in Southeastern Pennsylvania - will not be new locations, but instead are existing organizations that will function as... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

07-13-2016

[Gov. Wolf: MEMO: 2016-17 Budget Secures Critical Funding to Fight Opioid...](#)

(Press Release)

07-13-2016

[Opioid crackdown driving overdoses, officials say](#)

Efforts to rein in opioid prescribing have driven painkiller abusers to heroin and other illicit narcotics, pushing fatal overdoses into record territory for the second year in a row, according to data released Tuesday. Pennsylvania saw 3,383 people die from drug abuse last year, according to a... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

07-13-2016

[Congress expected to green-light opioid epidemic bill](#)

The U.S. Senate on Wednesday is expected to pass comprehensive legislation lawmakers say would help keep the nation's growing opioid epidemic in check. The House already green-lighted the bill, dubbed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, and Pennsylvania Republican Sen. Pat Toomey... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

07-13-2016

[Titusville Area Hospital unveils updated brand identity](#)

Titusville Area Hospital has unveiled an updated brand identity, symbolized by a new logo and tagline, in order to better visually represent the recent alignment of health care services across Crawford County. "Titusville Area Hospital, like Meadville Medical Center, is more than... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

- 07-12-2016 [Sen. Yaw Responds to Latest Heroin Death Report](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-12-2016 [Adapt Pharma to Launch Program to Raise Awareness, Expand Access and...](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-12-2016 [A byproduct of heroin crisis: Withdrawal deaths in jails](#)
LEBANON, Lebanon County — In the days after her 18-year-old daughter's first arrest on heroin charges, Stephanie Moyer took solace in thinking her daughter would be safe in jail until she got into a treatment program... - [AP](#)
- 07-12-2016 [Ransomware attacks info of 13K patients at Ambulatory Surgery Center at St. Mary](#)
The Ambulatory Surgery Center at St. Mary is alerting approximately 13,000 patients about a recent data breach involving their personal information. In letters sent to patients last week, the center, which provides outpatient surgical and diagnostic procedures, explained that staff members... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 07-11-2016 [Hospital Association Prepares for Move to Downtown Harrisburg](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-11-2016 [Latest tactic in opioid control: Take pain out of the mix in patient survey](#)
Doctors have long complained about patients demanding inappropriate treatment, especially addictive opioid painkillers. Many say they feel forced to comply for fear they will be rated poorly by patients on the internet or even more official surveys. Now the Obama administration,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 07-11-2016 [Commentary: Transformation of health care is happening now](#)
We are hearing quite a bit about the transformation of health care, but what does that really mean? If you are Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, it is the complete repeal of the Affordable Care Act. If you are the Democratic front-runner, Hillary Clinton, it is modifying the existing... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 07-11-2016 [Patients concerned about Erie chemo services](#)
ERIE, Pa. -- Charlene Sisson has been a familiar face at the Regional Cancer Center for the past six months. Sisson, 81, undergoes weekly chemotherapy treatments and occasional CT scans at the Millcreek Township cancer center as she battles intestinal cancer.... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 07-11-2016 [State: Prepare for uptick in heroin abuse, ODs](#)
Eric Scicchitano The Daily Item Heroin abuse and overdoses could spike this fall, an unintended result of the anticipated success of Pennsylvania's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, according to county and state drug and alcohol officials. The program is designed to thwart over-prescribing and doctor shopping, and... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 07-11-2016 ['You literally could have heard a pin drop': UPJ grad on quest to help Pa. shape drug policy](#)
Jason Snyder took a leap of faith at a health-care summit last fall in Harrisburg. With Gov. Tom Wolf in the audience, the Cambria County native opened up about his opioid addiction troubles, and his dream of helping others. That one moment changed Snyder's career track – and could become a... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 07-11-2016 [Advocates fear more heroin withdrawal deaths in jails](#)
LEBANON, Pa. In the days following her 18-year-old daughter's first arrest on heroin charges, Stephanie Moyer took solace thinking the nearby jail in central Pennsylvania would be a safe place for her to stay until she could get her into a treatment program. However, Victoria "Tori" Herr sounded disoriented on a call home three days... - [AP](#)

- 07-11-2016 [**More than 1 million OxyContin pills ended up in the hands of criminals and addicts. What the drugmaker knew**](#)
In the waning days of summer in 2008, a convicted felon and his business partner leased office space on a seedy block near MacArthur Park. They set up a waiting room, hired an elderly physician and gave the place a name that sounded like an ordinary clinic: Lake Medical.... - [*Los Angeles Times*](#)
- 07-11-2016 [**Family, lawmakers target opioid addiction**](#)
Learning to live with chronic, debilitating pain may sound like a death sentence, but the drugs that can make the pain go away can also kill you. In May and late June, the state House of Representatives passed several pieces of legislation related to opioid drug addiction based on... - [*Lehighon Times News*](#)
- 07-10-2016 [**Medical marijuana untapped potential**](#)
Two months ago, Gov. Tom Wolf signed into law a bill legalizing some forms of medical marijuana for serious medical conditions, including cancer, HIV, Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), multiple sclerosis, post-traumatic stress disorder, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and severe chronic or intractable... - [*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*](#)
- 07-10-2016 [**Anti-Abortion Group Presses Ahead Despite Recent Supreme Court Ruling**](#)
The Texas regulations required doctors to have admitting privileges at local hospitals, and required clinics to meet the physical and staffing requirements of surgery centers — measures, the state argued, that protected women's health. But the court ruled that the state had failed... - [*New York Times*](#)
- 07-08-2016 [**Caltagirone introduces resolution to hold pharma companies responsible for...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 07-08-2016 [**Session on opioids worth it, but some steps are personal**](#)
There were 3,300 statewide drug overdoses in 2015, about nine per day. - [*Williamsport Sun-Gazette*](#)
- 07-08-2016 [**Med students talk to Hope staff about opioids**](#)
Commonwealth Medical College student Darla Fink said she never could have expected opioid addiction to impact her family. - [*Williamsport Sun-Gazette*](#)
- 07-07-2016 [**Wolf proposal would have doctors check pill database**](#)
In an effort to plug one of the biggest holes in Pennsylvania's anti-drug effort, Gov. Tom Wolf wants to require that all of the state's physicians check patients' drug histories in a new database every time they prescribe controlled substances, including opioids, a... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)
- 07-07-2016 [**Medical marijuana reduces prescription drug use, study finds**](#)
Patients fill significantly fewer prescriptions for such conditions as nausea and pain in states where medical marijuana is available, researchers reported Wednesday in one of the first studies to examine how medical cannabis might be affecting approved treatments.... - [*Philadelphia Inquirer*](#)
- 07-07-2016 [**Sentencing postponed for doctors in fraud case**](#)
A Lackawanna County judge rejected plea agreements Wednesday with two physicians accused of having unlicensed staff members write prescriptions for drug-addicted patients and filing false insurance claims, delaying their sentencings. Chethan V. Byadgi, M.D., 52, of Milford, and Rajaa Nebbari, M.D., 45, of... - [*Scranton Times*](#)
- 07-07-2016 [**Pa. budget would give new funds for drug treatment**](#)
By Jeffrey Benzing PublicSource There might be good news for those who care about drug treatment money. In the budget bill approved by the state Legislature — but not yet fully adopted as the final state budget — the commonwealth is giving \$45.5 million to assist local drug treatment agencies in funding that... - [*Pocono Record*](#)

07-07-2016

[Police chiefs blast defeat of opioid funding](#)

WASHINGTON — Leonard Campanello, police chief in Gloucester, Mass., joined more than a dozen law enforcement officials blasting congressional Republicans on Wednesday for failing to agree to spend \$1.1 billion to increase treatment for opioid addicts. “I think it’s disgraceful,” Campanello told reporters after... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

07-07-2016

[Upper Allegheny among nation’s most wired health systems](#)

Upper Allegheny Health System, representing member hospitals Bradford Regional Medical Center and Olean (N.Y.) General Hospital, has been named to the nation’s list of Most Wired hospitals and health systems by the American Hospital Association’s Health Care Forum.... - [Bradford Era](#)

Significant Legislation

[HB 35](#)

[Regan, Mike](#)

(PN 1451) Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offenses) adding new chapter providing for the criminal diversion of medical marijuana. Provides a practitioner commits a first degree misdemeanor if the practitioner intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or negligently provides medical marijuana to a person who is not legally entitled to receive it. Further provides an employee or owner of a medical marijuana organization commits a misdemeanor of the second degree if the employee or owner knowingly, recklessly or negligently provides medical marijuana to a person who is not legally entitled to receive it. Also provides for criminal retention of medical marijuana and imposes penalties. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 5- 6-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

[HB 114](#)

[Costa, Dom](#)

(PN 99) Amends the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act further providing for reasons for refusal, revocation or suspension of license by adding that if a physician is convicted of an offense under section 13(a)(12) of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or a substantially similar offense in another state, the board shall permanently revoke the license of the physician. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 1-21-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Professional Licensure

[HB 115](#)

[Costa, Dom](#)

(PN 100) Amends the Medical Practice Act further providing for reasons for refusal, revocation, suspension or other corrective actions against a licensee or certificate holder by adding that if a physician is convicted of an offense under section 13(a)(12) of the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or a substantially similar offense in another state, the board shall permanently revoke the license of the physician. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 1-21-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Professional Licensure

[HB 252](#)

[Boback, Karen](#)

(PN 315) The Marcellus Shale Health Registry Act requires the Department of Health, by January 1, 2016, to establish a population-based health registry for the collection of health-related data associated with unconventional gas well drilling. Also requires the registry to consist of health-related data collected and provided by health care practitioners. Provides for reporting by health care practitioners and for confidentiality. The department shall promulgate regulations within six months. \$1 million is distributed to the department from the Unconventional Gas Well Fund to carry out the provisions of the act. Effective immediately.

Last Action: 4-20-15 H Press conference held

[HB 274](#)

[DeLuca, Anthony](#)

(PN 273) The Prohibition on Health Care Provider Self-referral Act prohibits health care provider self-referral and provides for penalties. Effective in 60 days.

Remarks: PASA does not oppose HB 274 in its current form, but objects to the basis of the legislation that there is an inherent conflict of interest when any physician refers his or her patient to a facility where the physician has a financial interest. There is also the possibility that the Stark exceptions could change or be removed from the bill as it moves through the legislative process. Therefore, PASA prefers that HB 274 remain in the House Health Committee.

Last Action: 2- 2-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

[HB 294](#)

[DeLuca, Anthony](#)

(PN 293) Amends Title 40 (Insurance) adding a chapter providing for nondiscrimination by payers in health care benefit plans. A health care payer shall be required to contract with and to accept as a health care benefit plan participant any willing provider of health care services. A health care payer may not discriminate against a provider of health care services who: (1) agrees to accept the health care payer's standard payment levels; and (2) meets and agrees to adhere to quality standards established by the health care payer. Effective in 60 days.

Remarks: It is claimed that in some parts of the Commonwealth, physicians and other health care providers are refused payment for their services from certain healthcare insurers. This legislation would effectively prohibit that practice.

Last Action: 2- 2-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

[HB 327](#)

[Fabrizio, Florindo](#)

(PN 345) Act reenacting and amending the Health Care Cost Containment Act making editorial corrections and extending the sunset to September 1, 2019. Effective immediately.

Last Action: 2- 4-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

[HB 331](#)

[DeLuca, Anthony](#)

(PN 349) The Protection of Patients and Medical Personnel from Health Care Facility Retaliation Act prohibits a health care facility from discriminating or retaliating against health care providers, staff at medical facilities, or any individual who submits a grievance or complaint to the facility or agency responsible for evaluating or accrediting the facility. The prohibition also applies to individuals who initiate, participate, or cooperate in an administrative proceeding relating to quality of care, services, or conditions at a facility. Provides for civil and criminal penalties including assessment of a fine and restitution for lost wages, work benefits, and the legal cost of having to pursue the claim of retaliation or discrimination. Also provides the act shall not apply to an inmate of a correctional facility or juvenile facility owned and operated by the State or local government or an inmate housed in a local detention facility including a county jail or a juvenile hall, juvenile camp or other juvenile detention facility. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 2- 4-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

[HB 336](#)

[Christiana, Jim](#)

(PN 358) The Health Care Practitioner Noncompete Agreement Act prohibits the enforcement of covenants not to compete in health care practitioner employment agreements. The bill provides for the duty of the employer and activities outside the scope of practice. Nothing in the act shall be construed to limit the period of time a party may agree to maintain information, limit the geographic area within which the information must be kept confidential, allow a

health care practitioner to solicit individuals who are patients of the former employer but not prior patients of the health care practitioner, or create a separate right to the patient list of the employer. Effective in 30 days.

Last Action: 2- 5-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

 [HB 389](#)

[Oberlander, Donna](#)

(PN 1474) Amends Act entitled "An act creating a Department of Health, and defining its powers and duties" adding language establishing the office of the Chief Nursing Officer of the Commonwealth within the Department of Health. The Chief Nursing Officer shall be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Further provides for the powers and duties of the Chief Nursing Officer. Requires the CNO to be a practicing nurse licensed by the commonwealth and to be a registered nurse with an unencumbered license and at least ten years of working experience as a registered nurse and who has an advanced degree in nursing or public health. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 426, 1236)

Last Action: 5-20-15 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Public Health and Welfare

 [HB 476](#)

[Gingrich, Mauree](#)

(PN 534) Amends the Health Care Facilities Act adding a chapter providing for professional nurse staffing standards. Definitions are provided and health care facilities are required to develop, implement, and monitor a professional nurse safe staffing plan for the purpose of ensuring the health and safety of patients. Requires and provides for the development of Professional Nurse Staffing Committees. The legislation places responsibilities and duties upon hospitals, committees, and the Department of Health. Effective in 180 days.

Last Action: 4-11-16 H Press conference held

 [HB 479](#)

[Fabrizio, Florindo](#)

(PN 3070) Amends the Professional Nursing Law adding new section allowing a registered nurse to delegate nursing functions when certain conditions are met. Defines "delegate and delegation" and requires the State Board of Nursing to promulgate regulations that establish the criteria pursuant to which a registered nurse may delegate the performance of functions. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 537)

Last Action: 9-19-16 H Set on the House Calendar

 [HB 515](#)

[Dean, Madeleine](#)

(PN 1770) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 23 (Domestic Relations) in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for general regulations; and, in child protective services, further providing for employees having contact with children, adoptive and foster parents. No fee shall be charged to an individual who makes the request to apply for or maintain a volunteer position. If the individual makes more than one request each 36 months, a fee shall be charged for the second and subsequent requests. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 6-10-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Children and Youth

 [HB 745](#)

[DeLuca, Anthony](#)

(PN 882) An act stipulating that a contract or agreement that creates or establishes the terms of an employment relationship with a health care practitioner that includes a restriction of the right of the health care practitioner to practice in a geographic area for a period of time after the termination of the employment relationship or prohibits a health care practitioner from treating a prior patient shall be void and unenforceable regarding the restriction. The bill

provides an exception, for buyout clause, and for definitions.
Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 3- 9-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

 [HB 899](#)

[DeLuca, Anthony](#)

(PN 1122) The Protection of Patients and Medical Personnel from Health Care Facility Retaliation Act prohibits a health care facility from discriminating or retaliating against a patient or medical personnel because the patient or medical personnel have either presented a grievance, complaint or report to the facility, to an agency responsible for accrediting or evaluating the facility, to the medical staff of the facility or to another government entity or initiated, participated or cooperated in an investigation or administrative proceeding related to the quality of care, services or conditions at the facility. Provides for rebuttable presumption relating to patients and rebuttable presumption related to medical personnel. Further provides for discriminatory treatment; evidence; criminal penalty; restitution and damages; injunctive relief relating to peer review; and peer review activity. Also provides an exemption for an inmate of a State correctional institution or juvenile facility owned or operated by the State or local government or an inmate housed in a local detention facility. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 4- 8-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

 [HB 973](#)

[Saylor, Stanley](#)

(PN 1229) Amends the Insurance Company Law, in uniform health insurance claim form, allowing a patient to authorize payment of insurance benefits directly to the dental service provider in accordance with the provisions of their insurance policy. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 5-16-16 H Informational meeting held House Insurance

 [HB 985](#)

[Gingrich, Maureen](#)

(PN 1270) The Central Service Technician Certification Act provides for certification of central service technicians; imposes continuing education requirements on central service technicians; and provides for duties of hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities and the Department of Health. The certification requirement shall not apply to a person who has been employed or otherwise contracted for services as a central service technician in a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility for two consecutive years occurring within the five years immediately before the effective date of this section; all other central service technicians shall have 18 months from the date of hire to comply. A central service technician in a hospital or an ambulatory surgical facility shall annually complete 10 hours of continuing education to remain qualified as a central service technician. Effective January 1, 2016.

Last Action: 4-20-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

 [HB 1067](#)

[Brown, Rosemary](#)

(PN 1348) Amends the Health Care Facilities Act adding a new subsection providing for the licensure of urgent care centers by the Department of Health. Within one year, to the extent possible, the department shall publish in the Pennsylvania Bulletin proposed regulations establishing revised standards for licensure of urgent care centers. Requires the standards to provide for separate criteria based on the services provided by the urgent care center as outlined in the legislation. Further provides that until such time the revised regulations are adopted, the existing rules and regulations governing the licensure of urgent care centers shall apply. The fee for a license or a renewal shall be \$250. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 4-24-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

[HB 1178](#) [Barrar, Stephen](#) (PN 1523) Amends the Insurance Company Law requiring that an insurer may only retroactively deny reimbursement during a 12-month period after the date the insurer paid the health care provider. If an insurer retroactively denies reimbursement for services as a result of coordination of benefits, the health care provider shall have six months from the date of the denial, unless an insurer permits a longer time period, to submit a claim for reimbursement for the service to the insurer, the medical assistance program or Medicare program responsible for payment. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 6-17-15 H Informational meeting held House Insurance

[HB 1219](#) [Ward, Judith](#) (PN 2845) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in assault, adding health care practitioners in a health care facility and employees of public transportation to the scope of the offense of aggravated assault. Additionally, "firefighter" is clarified to include volunteer firefighters and special fire police officers. The bill provides for definitions. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1600, 2764)

Last Action: 2-12-16 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Judiciary

[HB 1233](#) [Quinn, Marguerite](#) (PN 2473) The Patient Test Result Information Act provides for summaries or copies of patient test results to be sent directly to a patient or the patient's designee when there is a finding of a significant abnormality; and provides for duties of the Department of Health under the act. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number 1618, 2373)

Last Action: 11-13-15 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Public Health and Welfare

[HB 1276](#) [Watson, Katharine](#) (PN 1997) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in child protective services, clarifying requirements pertaining to criminal history background certifications for employees and volunteers. Adds definitions of "institution of higher education", "adult family member", "direct volunteer contact", "immediate vicinity", "matriculated student" and "routine interaction", to identify which individuals are required to comply with the requirements. Provides for exemptions from the background certification requirements. Adds family members in family living homes, community homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities and host homes to the mandated reporting, training and certification requirements. Also requires prospective adoptive parents to meet the requirements. Waives the Child Line and State Police fees for volunteers and allows the volunteers to receive a certification every 57 months. Allows the Auditor General to access child abuse reports in possession of an entity being audited. Adds a good faith presumption for volunteer organizations when indentifying those volunteers needing clearances. The amendment of 6344.4 (2) (i) relating to recertification if enacted after July 1, 2015, shall be retroactive to July 1, 2015. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 1686 1831, 1849, 1947, 1984)

Remarks: Child Abuse Background Checks

Last Action: 7- 1-15 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 15)

[HB 1282](#) [Cutler, Bryan](#) (PN 1713) The Health Care Professional Transparency Act requires advertisements for health care services that name a health care practitioner to identify the type of license held by the health care practitioner and be free of deceptive or misleading information. The bill requires the advertising to state the full name of the certifying board and the name of the specialty or

subspecialty practiced by the health care practitioner. The bill provides for notice, violations and enforcement, fees, and reporting. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 11-13-15 H Removed from meeting agenda, House Health

 [HB 1329](#)

[English, Hal](#)

(PN 2973) The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable Act requires that the name of the family caregiver is recorded when a family member is admitted into a hospital or rehabilitation facility; that the family caregiver is notified if the family member is to be discharged to another facility or home; and that facility must provide an explanation and live instruction of the medical tasks that the family caregiver will perform at home. Provides nothing in the act shall be construed to require any commercial health insurance policy or government program to provide reimbursement for after-care assistance provided by a lay caregiver. Requires the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, no later than three years after the effective date, to conduct a study regarding the impact of the act on certain patient outcomes, including, but not limited to hospital readmissions. The committee shall report its findings to the General Assembly no later than five years after the effective date. Effective in 12 months. (Prior Printer Number: 1796, 1883, 2967)

Last Action: 4-20-16 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 20)

 [HB 1398](#)

[Harris, C. Adam](#)

(PN 2860) Amends Titles 15 (Corporations and Unincorporated Associations) and 54 (Names) modernizing the law on limited liability partnerships, general partnerships, limited partnerships and limited liability companies; and making conforming changes with respect to associations, corporations, unincorporated nonprofit associations and business trusts by doing the following: As to general provisions, making conforming changes by revising provisions on application of title, definitions, defense of usury, tax clearance of certain fundamental transactions and fee schedule. As to entities generally, making conforming changes by revising requirements for foreign association names. As to entity transactions, making conforming changes by revising provisions on regulatory conditions and required notices and approvals, nature of transactions, approval by limited partnership, effect of merger, statement of division and effectiveness, effect of division and effect of domestication. As to foreign associations, making conforming changes by revising provisions on governing law. As to corporations, making conforming changes by revising provisions on distributions by business corporations and by adding provisions on the use of special litigation committees by business corporations and nonprofit corporations. As to partnerships generally: extensively revising provisions on: interchangeability of partnership, limited liability company and corporate forms of organization; and ownership of certain professional partnerships; and adding a provision on failure to observe formalities. As to limited liability partnerships: extensively revising provisions on: scope; definitions; limitation on liability of partners; extraterritorial application of subchapter; foreign registered limited liability partnerships; and annual registration; and adding provisions on: distributions; and dissolution. As to general partnerships, repealing existing Chapter 83 and replacing it with a new Chapter 84 relating to: general provisions; nature of partnership; relations of partners to persons dealing with partnership; relations of partners to each other and to partnership; transferable interests and rights of transferees and creditors; dissociation; dissociation as partner if business not wound up; and dissolution and winding up. As to limited partnerships, repealing existing Chapter 85 and replacing it with a new Chapter 86 relating to: general provisions; formation and filings; limited partners; general partners; contributions and

distributions; dissociation; transferable interests and rights of transferees and creditors; dissolution and winding up; and actions by partners. As to limited liability companies, repealing existing Chapter 89 and replacing it with a new Chapter 88 relating to: general provisions; formation and filings; relations of members and managers to persons dealing with limited liability company; relations of members to each other and to limited liability company; transferable interests and rights of transferees and creditors; dissociation; dissolution and winding up; and actions by members. As to unincorporated nonprofit associations, making conforming amendments by revising provisions on ownership and transfer of property. As to business trusts, making conforming changes by revising provisions on application and effect of chapter and liability of trustees and beneficiaries. As to names, revising provisions on register established. Effective in 90 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1895, 2375)

Last Action: 3-22-16 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Environmental Resources and Energy

[HB 1426](#)

[DiGirolamo, Gene](#)

(PN 2005) Amends the Health Care Facilities Act adding a chapter providing for hospital patient protection. The bill establishes a hospital nursing practice standard, which states all registered nurses have a duty and right to act and provide care in the exclusive interests of a patient and to act as the patient's advocate, as circumstances require, in accordance with the provision described in the bill; a professional duty of patient advocacy; provides prohibitions against discharge or retaliation for whistleblowing; provides for protected rights; prohibits interference with rights and duties of free speech and patient advocacy; outlines direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratios; provides for hospital unit staffing plans; provides minimum requirements for hospital systems; outlines prohibited activities; provides for fines and civil penalties; provides for private right of action; and provides for enforcement procedure. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 6-30-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

[HB 1657](#)

[Quinn, Marguerite](#)

(PN 2918) The Utilization Review Entity Preauthorization Act provides for preauthorizations conducted by utilization review entities relating to health care services. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 3-10-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

[HB 1663](#)

[Baker, Matt](#)

(PN 2527) The Health Care Practitioner Credentialing Act requires all health insurers licensed to do business in the Commonwealth to accept the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH) credentialing application when submitted by a health care practitioner for participation in the health insurer's provider panel. Provides an application shall be considered complete if the application is submitted through the CAQH electronic process and all required information is provided. Further provides for provisional credentialing; adverse credentialing decision; and services rendered under provisional credentialing. Also provides a health care practitioner with provisional status may not hold an enrollee of the health insurer liable for the cost of any covered services provided to the enrollee during the time period the applicant has provisional status, except for any deductible, copayment or coinsurance amount owed by the enrollee. Requires the Insurance Department to assess an administrative penalty on a health insurer for a failure to utilize CAQH, for intentionally and routinely failing to complete the credentialing process or for failing to reimburse applicants granted provisional status. Requires the Department of

Health and the Insurance Department to promulgate regulations to administer and enforce the act. Effective in 180 days.

Last Action: 12- 8-15 H Meeting cancelled for 12/09/15, House Health

[HB 1698](#)

[Heffley, Doyle](#)

(PN 3532) The Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Analgesic Drug Products Coverage Act provides for coverage requirements by an insurance carrier or health insurance plan for abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic drug products. A health insurance carrier or health insurance plan shall provide coverage on its formulary, drug list or other lists of similar construct for at least one abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic drug product per opioid analgesic active ingredient. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2835)

Last Action: 7- 5-16 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Banking and Insurance

[HB 1699](#)

[Brown, Rosemary](#)

(PN 3587) The Safe Emergency Prescribing Acts states that a health care practitioner may not prescribe an opioid drug product to an individual seeking treatment in an emergency department or urgent care center in a quantity sufficient to treat that individual for more than seven days, with exceptions if the health care practitioner believes more than a seven-day supply is needed. A health care practitioner in an emergency department or urgent care center may not authorize the refilling of a prescription for an opioid drug product that has been lost, stolen or destroyed. A health care practitioner shall refer an individual for treatment if the individual is believed to be at risk for substance abuse while seeking treatment in an emergency department or urgent care center and shall use the prescription drug monitoring program in accordance with section 8 of the Achieving Better Care By Monitoring All Prescriptions Program (ABC-MAP) Act. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 3008, 3533)

Last Action: 7- 5-16 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Public Health and Welfare

[HB 1737](#)

[Maher, John](#)

(PN 3285) Amends the act entitled, "An act relating to the recycling and reuse of waste tires; providing for the proper disposal of waste tires and the cleanup of stockpiled tires; authorizing investment tax credits for utilizing waste tires; providing remediation grants for the cleanup of tire piles and for pollution prevention programs for small business and households; establishing the Small Business and Household Pollution Prevention Program and management standards for small business hazardous waste; providing for a household hazardous waste program and for grant programs; making appropriations; and making repeals," adding language to section 206 (c) relating to the household waste collection program and household prescription drug and pharmaceutical waste. Provides that the following entities are exempt from registering with the Department of Environmental Protection prior to commencing a household prescription drug and pharmaceutical waste collection operation: Federal, state and local law enforcement; hospitals, assisted living facilities, home health care agencies, long-term care nursing facilities, hospice, domiciliary care homes and other similar healthcare facilities; Commonwealth licensed pharmacies; resource recovery facilities that collect expired or unwanted prescription drugs or over-the-counter pharmaceutical products; and similar facilities or entities the department excludes at its discretion. Further provides that expired or unwanted prescription drugs and over-the-counter pharmaceutical products generated by households and collected as part of a registered collection event may be destroyed through industrial furnaces, resource recovery facilities or any other facility that renders the drugs and

pharmaceutical products nonretrievable. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2607)

Remarks: Part of Opioid Advisory Committee Bill Package

Last Action: 6- 6-16 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Environmental Resources and Energy

[HB 1800](#)

[Mackenzie, Ryan](#)

(PN 2681) Amends the Workers Compensation Act to require that all reasonable and necessary treatments, services, products, or accommodations be consistent with treatment guidelines selected by the Department of Labor and Industry. Provides for a panel of medical providers, selected by the L&I Secretary, to review and propose amendments to adopted guidelines. Provides for appeals. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 6-14-16 H Laid on table in committee House Labor and Industry

[HB 1805](#)

[Masser, Kurt](#)

(PN 3534) Amends Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program (ABC-MAP) Act adding a new section requiring each licensing board in the Department of State with jurisdiction over professional licensees who are dispensers or prescribers of opioids to require individuals applying for an original license or certification issued by the licensing board which authorizes the licensee to be a dispenser or prescriber to submit, no later than 12 months after obtaining an initial license or certification, documentation acceptable to the board of the completion of at least two hours of education in the practices of prescribing and dispensing of opioids. Allows the education to occur as part of the applicants' professional degree educational program. Further provides dispensers and prescribers applying for renewal of a license or certification to complete at least two hours of education in pain management, identification of addiction or the practices of prescribing or dispensing of opioids as a portion of the total continuing education required for biennial review. Requires each licensing board, in consultation with the department, to approve the curricula for the pain management, identification of addictions, and the practice of prescribing and dispensing of opioids education. Also provides this requirement shall not apply to a dispenser or prescriber who is exempt from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration's requirements for a registration number under federal law and applicable state law. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 2766)

Last Action: 7- 5-16 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure

[HB 1894](#)

[Metcalfe, Daryl](#)

(PN 2943) The Legal Pennsylvania Workers Act prohibits the employment of unauthorized aliens by an employer. "Employer" is defined as an individual or organization that transacts business in this Commonwealth, that has a license issued by an agency in this Commonwealth and that employs at least one individual. Employer includes the Commonwealth, any political subdivision of this Commonwealth and any self-employed person. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 3-14-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

[HB 2134](#)

[Fabrizio, Florindo](#)

(PN 3483) Amends the Health Care Facilities Act, in licensing of health care facilities, providing that in the definition of "ambulatory surgical facility," outpatient surgical treatment means surgical treatment to patients who do not require hospitalization, but who require constant medical supervision following the surgical procedure performed *and in which the expected duration of*

services would not exceed 24 hours following an admission.
Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 6- 9-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

[HB 2205](#)

[Metcalf, Daryl](#)

(PN 3701) The Pennsylvania Firearm Owners Privacy Act prohibits health care practitioners and health care facilities from inquiring about or entering information regarding the ownership of a firearm or its presence in the patient's or family members private domicile, unless relevant to the patient's medical care or safety. Providers and insurers may not discriminate based on the lawful ownership of a firearm. Effective immediately.

Last Action: 7- 1-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

[HB 2211](#)

[Baker, Matt](#)

(PN 3662) Amends the Human Services Code, in public assistance, further providing for medical assistance payments for institutional care; in children and youth, further providing for provider submissions; in nursing facility assessments, further providing for definitions and for time periods; in intermediate care facilities for persons with an intellectual disability assessments, further providing for definitions and for time periods; in hospital assessments, further providing for definitions and for time period; in departmental powers and duties as to licensing, further providing for regulations; establishing the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program; providing for the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Fund; provides for composition, powers and duties of related board; and making a related repeal. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 3606)

Last Action: 7- 5-16 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Public Health and Welfare

[HB 2241](#)

[Boback, Karen](#)

(PN 3704) Amends Title 40 (Insurance) to allow insurers to retroactively deny reimbursements to health care providers under certain conditions including fraud, waste, abuse, duplicate claims, required denial by a federal or state government plan, and coordination of benefits with another insurer. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 7- 1-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

[HB 2244](#)

[Marshall, Jim](#)

(PN 3712) The Hospital Nursing Staff Report Card Act makes public information about nurse staffing practices and nurse staffing levels, and provides for definitions. The bill outlines general rules and practices for the compilation of daily nursing staff reports by hospitals, requires that the report be posted, requires the daily reports for the previous month to be submitted to the Department of Health (DOH), and designates protections for hospital employees. Also directs DOH to develop standardized reporting forms, requires DOH to produce quarterly reports for each hospital that shows average direct care nurse staffing levels, and provides for DOH monitoring responsible. Effective in 90 days.

Last Action: 7- 7-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

[HB 2267](#)

[Quinn, Marguerite](#)

(PN 3739) The Telemedicine Act provides for telemedicine and for insurance coverage The Commonwealth's health professional boards shall maintain consistent licensure or certification and standards of care requirements between in-person and telemedicine-provided practices. A health care practitioner who delivers services through the use of telemedicine shall be subject to the laws that require licensure, certification or other authorization to practice a health care profession, held to the same standard of professional practice as a similar licensee of the same practice

area or specialty that is providing the same healthcare services through in-person encounters and shall also be subject to the laws requiring professional liability insurance, payment of assessments to the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Fund or otherwise obtain coverage for medical professional liability. The bill provides for evaluation and treatment through telemedicine and requires Medical Assistance and insurance coverage of telemedicine services. Effective in 90 days.

Last Action: 7-21-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

[HR 590](#)

[Kinsey, Stephen](#)

(PN 2538) Resolution directing the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to establish and administer a task force on access to addiction treatment through health plans and other resources. A report is to be prepared for the General Assembly one year after passage of the resolution.

Remarks: Part of Opioid Advisory Committee Bill Package

Last Action: 5-16-16 H Adopted (Vote: Y:196/N: 0)

[HR 892](#)

[Burns, Frank](#)

(PN 3375) Resolution requesting the Congress of the United States to urge the Food and Drug Administration to reverse its directive allowing OxyContin to be prescribed to children 11 to 16 years of age.

Last Action: 5-18-16 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

[HR 893](#)

[Readshaw, Harry](#)

(PN 3505) Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study and publish a report on the benefits, costs and drawbacks of alternative opioid dependence treatment programs that utilize Federal Food and Drug Administration-approved medications. (Prior Printer Number: 3376)

Last Action: 6-21-16 H Adopted (Vote: Y:198/N: 0)

[SB 49](#)

[Greenleaf, Stewart](#)

(PN 29) Amends the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act, in insurance, by stipulating that beginning in 2014, a health care provider may elect to pay the annual assessment in equal installments, not exceeding four, if the health care provider informs the primary carrier of the election to pay in installments. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 1-14-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance

[SB 76](#)

[Argall, David](#)

(PN 1062) The Property Tax Independence Act authorizes school districts to levy, assess, and collect a tax on personal income or a tax on earned income and net profits as a means of abolishing property taxation by the school district; authorizes the imposition of a personal income tax or an earned income tax by a school district at a rate determined by the district, subject to voter approval; provides an exception for low income persons. Broadens the Sales and Use Tax and increases its rate from six to seven percent. Increases the Personal Income Tax from 3.07 percent to 4.34 percent. Increases the Hotel Occupancy Tax from six to seven percent. Allocates existing revenue dedicated to property tax relief from casino to eliminate school property taxes. Provides for severability and makes repeals. Chapters 3 and 4 shall take effect June 30, 2016, and the remainder of the act shall take effect immediately.

Remarks: Sales Tax Expansion Proposal for Property Tax Relief

Last Action: 11-23-15 S Discussed at PA Press Club luncheon

[SB 117](#)

[Hughes, Vincent](#)

(PN 936) Amends the Tax Reform Code, in tax for education, further providing for definitions, for imposition of tax, for computation of tax, for exclusions from tax, for credit against tax, for licenses, for definitions, for imposition of tax, for time for filing returns, for tax held in trust for the Commonwealth, for discount, for assessment to recover erroneous refunds, for refund of sales tax attributed to bad debt, for refunds, providing for assessment after refunds, further providing for interest, for additions to tax, for crimes and for keeping of records; and providing for transfers; in personal income tax, further providing for imposition, for classes of income and for special poverty provisions; establishing the Property Tax and Rent Relief Account; and providing for restricted account and transfers to the Property Tax Relief Fund; in corporate net income tax, further providing for definitions, for imposition, for reports and for payment of tax; in bank and trust company shares, further providing for imposition, for taxable amount, for apportionment and for definitions; in cigarette tax, further providing for incidence and rate of tax and for floor tax; providing for a tobacco products tax; in general provisions, further providing for underpayment of estimated tax; and providing for transfers to a restricted account for the purpose of the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund and to a city of first class in accordance with the Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard and Recovery Act and for payment of additional cigarette tax. The act is effective ranging from immediately to January 1, 2016, or immediately, whichever is later.

Remarks: Governor Wolf's Sales Tax Expansion Proposal for Property Tax Relief

Last Action: 5-15-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

[SB 396](#)

[Vance, Pat](#)

(PN 311) Amends the Health Care Cost Containment Act reenacting the law through June 30, 2019 and making editorial changes relating to the renamed Department of Human Services. Effective immediately.

Remarks: Closely monitor activities of PHC4 for PASA.

Last Action: 6-11-15 H Received in the House and referred to House Health

[SB 462](#)

[Rafferty, John](#)

(PN 408) Amends the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act, in miscellaneous provisions, establishing the Mcare Commission which shall review all funding which emanates from the Mcare Fund. No funding shall emanate from the fund unless approved by a majority of the commission. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 2-12-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance

[SB 469](#)

[Rafferty, John](#)

(PN 414) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to establish the Medical Professional Liability Court as a specialty court as part of the unified judicial system. Effective in 30 days.

Last Action: 2-13-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

[SB 553](#)

[Leach, Daylin](#)

(PN 531) Amends the Health Care Facilities Act providing for hospital patient protection; providing a hospital nursing practice standard; establishing the duty and right of patient advocacy; providing whistleblower protection; providing a hospital shall provide minimum staffing by direct care registered nurses and the clinical unit or clinical patient care area direct care registered nurse-to-patient ratios; establishing an acuity-based patient classification system; providing duties for the Department of Health;

providing fines and civil penalties. The bill also prohibits hospitals from assigning any unlicensed personnel to perform registered nurse functions. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 5- 6-15 S Press conference held

[SB 554](#)

[Argall, David](#)

(PN 532) Amends the Insurance Company Law to disallow retroactive denial of reimbursement of payments to health care providers by insurance companies outside of the twelve month period after the date the insurer paid the initial claim. The legislation also requires an insurer denying a claim retroactively to provide a written statement as to why the claim was denied. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 6-17-15 S Discussed in informational meeting, House Insurance

[SB 729](#)

[Wozniak, John](#)

(PN 733) Amends the Dental Law further providing for anesthesia and abrogating a regulation by adding that the board shall not limit the eligibility of dentists to use a hospital or other medical facility for anesthesia services or to receive payment for services rendered at a hospital or other medical facility. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 4-14-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure

[SB 769](#)

[Dinniman, Andrew](#)

(PN 833) The Nurse Violence Prevention Act requires the establishment of violence prevention committees in health care facilities to establish, review, administer and provide guidance about a program relating to the prevention of workplace violence at the health facility; stipulates that the committee shall annually perform a risk assessment evaluation of the factors that may put an employee of the health facility at risk of workplace violence; requires the committee to meet quarterly to review any case of workforce violence; requires employees to report incidents of workplace violence; and provides for remedies and for the powers and duties of the Department of Labor and Industry. Effective in 180 days.

Last Action: 5- 1-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Public Health and Welfare

[SB 843](#)

[Eichelberger, John](#)

(PN 935) Amends the Insurance Company Law, in uniform health insurance claim form, allowing a patient to authorize payment of insurance benefits directly to the dental service provider in accordance with the provisions of their insurance policy. Also directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of the costs and benefits associated with the direct reimbursement of nonparticipating providers by health insurance carriers under a valid agreement of benefits; the impact on consumers of prohibiting insurance carriers from refusing to accept a valid assignment of benefits; and the impact of requiring direct reimbursement of nonparticipating providers by health insurance carriers on a carrier's ability to maintain an adequate number of providers in their network. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 5-14-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance

[SB 888](#)

[Brooks, Michele](#)

(PN 1874) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in abortion, defining "dismemberment abortion" and prohibiting the practice under 20 weeks unless certain circumstances apply. Effective in 60 days.

Remarks: Prohibits dismemberment abortions (D&E) and changes abortion ban to 20 or more weeks.

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| | | Last Action: 6- 6-16 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary |
| SB 1020 | McIlhinney, Charles | (PN 1286) The Health Insurance Computerized Records Security Act provides for health insurance computerized records security and imposes a penalty. An insurer that offers, issues or renews a health benefits plan may not compile or maintain computerized records that include personal information, unless the information is secured by encryption or by any other method of technology rendering the information unreadable, undecipherable or otherwise unusable by an unauthorized person. Compliance with this provision requires more than the use of a password protection computer program which only prevents general unauthorized access to the personal information. Effective in 180 days. |
| | | Last Action: 9-29-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance |
| SB 1156 | Sabatina, John | (PN 1898) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations), in child protective services, further providing for definitions, for disposition and expunction of unfounded reports and general protective services reports, for employees having contact with children and adoptive and foster parents by adding clergy and health care personnel to the scope, for volunteers having contact with children and for recertification. The bill provides for reports to be maintained for ten years or until the child is 23 years old (changed from five years). Additionally, the act is applicable to health care personnel and members of the clergy who are responsible for a child's welfare or have direct contact with children. Exceptions for employees of institutions of higher education are repealed. Effective immediately. (Prior Printer Number: 1629, 1772) |
| | | Remarks: Makes changes to the background check requirements for hospital personnel and doctors. |
| | | Last Action: 6-29-16 S Received as amended in Senate and rereferred Senate Rules and Executive Nominations |
| SB 1158 | Schwank, Judy | (PN 1643) The Emergency Medical and Health Care Services Surprise Billing Prevention Act prohibits emergency medical and health care services surprise billing. Effective in 60 days. |
| | | Last Action: 3-22-16 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance |
| SB 1176 | Bartolotta, Camera | (PN 1663) Amends the Health Care Facilities Act, in general provisions, providing for acute care mental health bed registry and referrals. The department shall develop and administer a web-based acute care mental health bed registry to facilitate the temporary hospitalization and treatment of individuals who meet the criteria for inpatient examination and treatment under the Mental Health Procedures Act. The department shall make the registry available to health care professionals and their designees who are treating patients in need of mental health inpatient examination and treatment. The bill provides for design and contents of the registry and for eligibility to access the registry. Provisions regarding publication of notice of the completion of the registry in the Pennsylvania Bulletin are effective immediately and the remainder is effective 60 days after publication of the notice. |
| | | Last Action: 3-23-16 S Press conference held |
| SB 1202 | Yaw, Gene | (PN 1912) Amends the Achieving Better Care by Monitoring All Prescriptions Program (ABC-MAP) Act requiring each licensing board in the Department of State jurisdiction over professional |

licensees who are dispensers or prescribers to require: (1) Individuals applying for an initial license or certification issued by the licensing board, which license or certification authorizes the licensee to be a dispenser or prescriber, to submit documentation of the completion of at least two hours of education in pain management and at least two hours of education in the dispensing and prescribing practices of opioids; and (2) Dispensers and prescribers applying for the renewal of a license or certification to complete at least two hours of education in pain management or two hours of education in the dispensing and prescribing practices of opioids as a portion of the total continuing education required for biennial renewal. This shall not apply to a dispenser or prescriber who is exempt from the Drug Enforcement Administration's requirements for a registration number under 21 CFR Ch. II (relating to Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice) and applicable State law. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 1741)

Last Action: 7-19-16 H Press conference held

 [SB 1228](#)

[Yaw, Gene](#)

(PN 1806) The Emergency Department Safe Prescribing Act provides for limitations on the dispensing of opioid analgesic drug products in emergency departments of hospitals and for use of prescription drug monitoring programs. A health care practitioner may only prescribe an opioid drug product to an individual seeking treatment in an emergency department if the quantity of the opioid drug product to treat the individual does not exceed seven days. A health care practitioner in an emergency department may not authorize the refilling of a prescription for an opioid analgesic drug product that has been lost, stolen or destroyed. A health care practitioner shall refer an individual for treatment if the individual is believed to be at risk for substance abuse while seeking treatment in an emergency department. To determine whether a patient may be under treatment with an opioid drug product by another health care practitioner, the prescribing health care practitioner shall access the Achieving Better Care By Monitoring All Prescriptions Program (ABC-MAP) Act. The bill provides for duties of the Department of Health and for penalties. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 5-16-16 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Public Health and Welfare

 [SB 1305](#)

[Yaw, Gene](#)

(PN 1905) The Abuse-Deterrent Opioid Analgesic Drug Products Coverage Act provides for coverage requirements by an insurance carrier or health insurance plan for abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic drug products. A health insurance carrier or health insurance plan shall provide coverage on its formulary, drug list or other lists of similar construct for at least one abuse-deterrent opioid analgesic drug product per opioid analgesic active ingredient. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 6-10-16 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance

 [SB 1318](#)

[Killion, Thomas H.](#)

(PN 1935) The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Act authorizes the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; provides for the form of the compact; and imposes additional powers and duties on the Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. In order to strengthen access to health care, and in recognition of the advances in the delivery of health care, the member states of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact have allied in common purpose to develop a comprehensive process that complements the existing licensing

and regulatory authority of state medical boards and provides a streamlined process that allows physicians to become licensed in multiple states, thereby enhancing the portability of a medical license and ensuring the safety of patients. The compact creates another pathway for licensure and does not otherwise change a state's existing Medical Practice Act. The compact also adopts the prevailing standard for licensure and affirms that the practice of medicine occurs where the patient is located at the time of the physician-patient encounter, and therefore, requires the physician to be under the jurisdiction of the state medical board where the patient is located. State medical boards that participate in the compact retain the jurisdiction to impose an adverse action against a license to practice medicine in that state issued to a physician through the procedures in the compact. Effective in 60 days.

Last Action: 6-15-16 S Press conference held