



Illinois
State
Medical
Society

September 26, 2018

Mr. William Melofchik
Legislative Director
National Council of Insurance Legislators
U.S. House of Representatives
2317 Route 34, Suite 2B
Manasquan, NJ 08736

Dear Mr. Melofchik:

On behalf of the physician members of the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS), I write to express our strong opposition to proposed language in the National Council of Insurance Legislators' (NCOIL) Model Act on Worker's Compensation Pharmaceutical Reimbursement Rates that would place arbitrary and inappropriate restrictions on physician dispensing. Specifically, we strongly object to language that would limit physician distributed pharmaceutical products to a one-time fill within seven days from the date of injury.

Severely restricting physician dispensing in this manner threatens patient access to timely and appropriate care. Many pain management and orthopedic practices dispense pharmaceuticals directly to patients with acute and chronic pain as a way to facilitate patient adherence and help reduce recovery time. Eliminating the in-office dispensing option limits a physician's ability accommodate the patient's individual needs or circumstances, and has no clinical basis for support.

We are aware that the language in this Model Act was developed without physician or patient input, which is deeply troubling. The American Medical Association supports physician dispensing when it is in the best interest of the patient, and limiting this option for injured workers, or any patient, is contrary to the goals of providing high-quality, efficient care.

We strongly urge you to reject this model language.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Anderson, M.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees
Illinois State Medical Society

cc: Katherine M. Tynus, M.D.
Paul E. Pedersen, M.D.
Alexander R. Lerner