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Information Bulletin #014

To All Members of the DCRB:

**Re: New Prescription Drugs Report Highlights Decreasing Overall Use Among
Workers Compensation Claims in Delaware**

Fewer workers compensation claims are involving prescription drugs according to a new report from the Delaware Compensation Rating Bureau (DCRB), *Prescription Drug Trends in Delaware Workers' Compensation: 2012-2022*. This comprehensive analysis offers critical insights into the evolving landscape of prescription drug usage and costs within the state's workers' compensation system.

The report reveals significant trends, including a noticeable overall decrease in claims involving drug prescriptions, particularly those involving opioids. Once hailed as essential for pain management, opioids have been linked to an alarming rise in addiction and overdose deaths in Delaware. The Delaware Health and Social Services Division declared an "opioid epidemic" in 2015, prompting a necessary reevaluation of prescribing practices.

"Our new report sheds light on the progress made in addressing the opioid crisis while also highlighting the increased use of generic drugs," said Bill Taylor, President of the DCRB. "The data not only reflects Delaware's commitment to improving outcomes for injured workers but also emphasizes the importance of managing costs for employers and insurers."

The study also identifies a significant rise in the prescription of generic medications, which are more affordable alternatives to brand-name drugs. This shift contributes to cost savings without compromising safety or effectiveness, as generic drugs must meet the same rigorous FDA standards.

Additionally, legislative actions, particularly House Bills 175 and 373, have played a crucial role in reducing prescription drug costs in workers' compensation claims. These bills introduced necessary controls on pricing, leading to a gradual decline in overall drug expenditures.

"*Prescription Drug Trends in Delaware Workers' Compensation: 2012-2022* is a vital resource for employers, insurers, and policymakers aiming to understand the current dynamics of prescription drug usage in the state," says Taylor. "By harnessing the insights provided, stakeholders can

make informed decisions that enhance the well-being of injured workers while promoting cost-effective practices.”

For more information and to access the full report, please visit dcrb.com.

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President

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