



CHIROPRACTIC NEWS & VIEWS

Presented by:

Hawaii State Chiropractic Association, Inc.

Volume XI, December 2014

Mele Kalikimaka

ME KA HAU'OLI

MAKAHIKI HOU!



HI State Chiropractic Association
P.O. Box 22668
Honolulu, HI 96823-2668
Ph: (808) 926-8883 Fx: (808) 926-8884
www.HawaiiStateChiropracticAssociation.org

OFFICERS
&
ISLAND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Dr. Joseph G. Morelli, Jr., DC

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Jesse Broderson, DC

SECRETARY

Dr. Randy Collins, DC

TREASURER

Dr. Gary Ferguson, DC

OAHU ISLAND DIRECTORS

Dr. S. Andy Shanti, DC

Dr. Armando K. Garza, DC

EAST HAWAII ISLAND DIRECTOR

Dr. Robert Klein, DC

WEST HAWAII ISLAND DIRECTOR

Dr. Alfred Valenzuela, DC

MAUI, MOLOKAI & LANAI ISLAND DIRECTOR

Dr. James A. Pleiss, DC

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dr. Gary K. Saito, DC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joseph G Morelli Jr DC FICC, HSCA President & ACA District 7 Governor

Aloha All:

The year has whizzed by, and soon it will be a New Year! Hawaii has a new Governor, and the nation is about to see historic changes in Congress with unprecedented changes in the political makeup of both houses, with new legislative agendas!

Whether this will be good or bad for our profession, we will have to wait to see what actions are taken over the next several months.

Here at home, the Governor is busy appointing his Cabinet and Department Heads. As you may know, when there is a change in gubernatorial leadership, the political appointees of the outgoing administration tender their resignations to allow the incoming administration to appoint its leadership.

So, pretty much all the State Department Heads will be new. Occasionally, an incoming administration may keep on a few from the previous administration for the sake of continuity until a new person is eventually installed.

For those of us who sometimes interface with the various legislative, administrative and political entities, this presents a complete new set of challenges. (Some good & some not so much!)

Often times there is a new learning curve on both sides regarding our issues and the changes in policy that come with the new administration.

We have to try to figure out who may be "friend or foe". Accordingly, we then have to develop strategies and workarounds regarding our issues, while keeping up with the latest agenda of the new Legislature and Governor.

The HSCA is extremely lucky to have such an experienced person in Dr. Gary Saito who always seems to have his finger on the pulse of the politics here.

Regarding the national scene, I will continue to do my best to keep us all up to speed through my contacts with ACA, and other State Associations.

Please take the time to attend the HSCA final General Membership Meeting for 2014, on **Friday, December 12th at 7:30pm.**

We will be meeting on Oahu at the **Saint Louis Alumni Association Clubhouse** at 916 Coolidge St., Honolulu.

We will be teleconferencing the meeting for Neighbor Island participation. Please contact your HSCA Island Director for the location on your island. (See the list of Island Directors on the front page of this newsletter).

The meeting agenda will be a wrap up of the year, and a look ahead to the political and professional challenges we may be facing in the New Year.

Our meeting is open to **ALL DCs** here in the state, whether an HSCA member or not. Please feel free to bring a significant other or key office person. This meeting is one of the few opportunities to interact with our colleagues, and is an open forum to express your concerns and have questions answered.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday night. If I don't get a chance to see you, please accept my warmest wishes for the Holiday Season to you and your family.

Aloha, JOE Morelli

BILL IN CONGRESS PROPOSES EDUCATION TO IMPROVE CHIROPRACTIC DOCUMENTATION IN MEDICARE

Joseph G Morelli Jr DC FICC, HSCA President & ACA District 7 Governor

The following information is my best understanding in recent consultations with the American Chiropractic Association regarding a possible "punitive" law just introduced that Congress may pass regarding Medicare providers. I will try to lay out as best as I can what is about to take place if this bill becomes law.

This bill specifically targets Doctors of Chiropractic, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and possibly several other Medicare providers.

The ACA has been working behind the scenes over the last several months to do what it could to attenuate the original language of the proposed bill that was extremely harsh and punitive on our profession.

We have been working with all of our Congressional and legislative contacts, as well as with the budgeting committee in the House, HHS and various Medicare Contractors (Medicare insurance companies) to head off what could have been a disaster!

The history of this bill: *Protecting the Integrity of Medicare Act (PIMA), H.R. 5780*, is based in the projected insolvency of Medicare in the future, and the need to cut costs AND to protect the privacy of US citizens because of the increasing threat of Fraud and Identity Theft!

As we have heard for some years now that Medicare and other "entitlements" (Social Security) are not financially sound for the long term. As more and more "Baby Boomers" are retiring, and the fact of a shrinking younger demographic paying into the system, in addition to health care costs rising, the program will be tapped out in our lifetime.

Then, to top it all off...there is a growing identity theft problem in the US, causing all kinds of economic havoc in the public sector.

Congress has finally decided to take some initial steps to help shore up the system, plus address the identity theft problems.

As you know, our social security number is what the federal government uses to identify us as citizens, resident aliens, taxpayers, etc. This number is held sacred, since the US financial system uses this number as well to identify us. Medicare, and all of our health care system also uses this identifier.

Unfortunately, this one number as the formal federal identifier has been compromised by hackers, identity thieves, unfriendly foreign governments, organized crime, etc., etc.

This being the case, Congress has decided to take away the social security number from the Medicare system to help protect its integrity and the identity of its recipients.

This is no small feat! This means some new, more secure form of identifier must be produced and disseminated to most of the population of the United States!

Initial estimates of the cost is over **\$600 million dollars** just to start with. Then every employer, hospital, doctor, insurance company, bank and financial institutions, etc. must

update their systems and databanks to be able to transact normal every day business!

Congress is therefore looking for “an offset”, (some financial policy) that will help underwrite the cost of this massive federal undertaking! Since the Medicare system is the initial recipient of this action, and since Medicare itself is also in some financial straits Congress is looking to Medicare to figure out a way for it to pay for itself.

Congress realizes that there have always been claims of waste and fraud in the Medicare reimbursement system, so it decided to find some of the money to pay for this massive upgrade to its systems in finding and eliminating it.

This is where it gets bad for the Chiropractic profession. Since the Medicare regulations are very narrow when it comes to our practice, and since we have the punitive language regarding “Active Care vs. Maintenance Care” that is very limiting, and easily misinterpreted by most... we have a history of one of the highest Medicare claim “error rates”. The originators of this bill decided to enact regulations that could potentially save millions of dollars to Medicare on the backs of the Chiropractic providers and their patients! (They also have plans to propagate regs on the Advanced Nurse Practitioners & Physician Assistants).

As soon as the ACA got wind of this, we immediately began the long campaign to attenuate this action. We realized that right off the bat, we could not kill this bill, since the Congress and administration deemed it in the nations vital interest to shore up an entitlement and help stop identity theft/fraud!

We have spent hours upon hours attempting to educate the powers that be that Chiropractic *per say* is NOT the problem that is costing millions to the system! Rather, the arcane regulations and statutes regarding how we are limited in what and how we treat and can interface with the system is so ripe with pitfalls and misinterpretations, that it is a no-win situation for the profession and the public we serve!

Apparently, this message is getting through, and we were able to influence enough a change in the language that will not have us all getting fined with potential other punitive actions for miscoding, and/or inappropriately documenting a Medicare visit.

The ACA has been officially charged with assisting HHS, CMS and the Medicare Administrative Contractors (Noridian, Palmetto GBA, etc.) in developing, educating and training Doctors of Chiropractic on how to best comply with the regulations, and how to keep oneself out of trouble.

One of the greatest “upsides” of all of this is that we have had many one-to-one meetings with the concerned parties, and it is finally getting through to them how inequitable, and burdensome the system is. (Particularly concerning our profession!)

We are hopeful that because of this new influence we are developing, that we can one day get rid of the ½ century year old language and reform our physician status in the Medicare regs, including the possibility of “opting out” of the system, if one so desires!

The current new legislative language will not penalize those of us who follow the regulation and take the educational program to be developed with ACA.

For those of us who consistently perform as **outliers** regarding regs and documentation of our treatment **AND who do NOT** follow up by taking the certified educational program, can be subject to denials, fines and required to get pre-authorization for all patient treatment.

The HSCA will keep you up to date on the developments as they happen. We will work with the ACA and/or the carriers to bring here to Hawaii the educational program that will be required by the legislation to keep us in compliance.

Please see the following statement from the ACA on this subject.

Legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives this week calls for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop an education program to help improve documentation in chiropractic Medicare claims. The bill stipulates that the program would be created in consultation with the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) and representatives of Medicare administrative contractors and be made available by Jan. 1, 2016.

The Protecting the Integrity of Medicare Act (PIMA), H.R. 5780, is part of HHS’ ongoing, system-wide effort to reduce Medicare claim error rates and to prevent fraud. Under the bill, DCs whose claim denial rates are clearly out of line with the rest of the profession could be subject to pre-authorization standards, established by HHS. Doctors of chiropractic with a good record of claims based on proper documentation and those who avail themselves to the education program will avoid pre-authorization requirements that non-compliant providers could eventually face.

“While this legislation may appear to be an indictment against the chiropractic profession, comparative data from 2011 shows us at the top of the error rate list at 44.1 percent.

We can no longer just make the assertion that we are being discriminated against,” said ACA President Anthony Hamm, DC. “Frankly, should this legislation be enacted, it will provide ACA the opportunity to educate those who are not compliant with clinical decision making and documentation of the Medicare patient. It will also potentially offer us the opportunity to interact with CMS and the individual Medicare Administrative Contractors to provide a better understanding of our unique model of patient care.”

“ACA is working hard to ensure that the vast majority of DCs that are compliant with proper documentation and clinical decision making skills are not penalized in ways that harm them or their doctor-patient relationships,” added Dr. Hamm.

The bill currently has no companion legislation in the Senate, but it could possibly be attached to other, larger legislation expected to move forward in the House later this year. ACA will continue to monitor the bill’s progress and oppose any overly burdensome pre-authorization requirements. DCs can learn more about documentation requirements by visiting www.acatoday.org/Medicare.

HSCA 2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES SPECIAL!

Go on-line to renew or join HSCA and SAVE \$100 on 2015 annual dues. Must pay in full by 12/31/2014

www.HawaiiStateChiropracticAssociation.Org or

Call: (808) 926-8883 Fax: (808) 926-8884

<----->
>>PRACTICE FOR SALE<<

Fully Furnished Practice For Sale in Pearl City, Oahu, HI
Great Location, Street Frontage on Busy Street, Freeway Close,
Cheap Rent
Digital X-Ray, modern equipment, well established patient base,
New Website, Great Online presence,
Cloud Based CRM and management.....Turn-Key Operation
Need to sell quickly: Sale Price: negotiable
Reasonable offers will be Accepted!
CONTACT: email: mpt145@gmail.com

<----->
>>HSCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING<<

Date: Friday, December 12, 2014
Place: Oahu: St. Louis Alumni Clubhouse
Neighbor Isl's: Contact your Island Director
Time: 7:30pm
Info: Call HSCA office: (808) 926-8883

<----->
>>ADJUSTING TABLE FOR SALE<<

Model: Zenith 230 Hi lo
Good condition, original owner, in storage 5 years.
Call: Dr. Douglas Kroll (808) 341-5508 Kailua, Oahu

<----->
>>PROFESSIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE<<

1. **LSI System H Interferential, Model S2, Serial#1455**
Very good condition with Owners Manual, Manual for pad placement, good supply of Hessco pads (2x1 1/2 and 4x2 1/4, 20- 6-foot twin conductor leads, remote on/off cable, laminated quick-reference card and power cord. Current new price is \$1539.85.
 2. **Plastic molded full spine with metal rod stand**
 3. **4 Stages of Subluxation Degeneration** - 2 lumbar vertebrae with nervous system and disc mounted on wooden base.
 4. **2 Cervical spine Subluxation Degeneration Posters** - each one professionally mounted in aluminum frames (vacuumed) by Ibsen Studios
 5. **Thuli Portable Adjusting Table** 3 drop sections, extending leg support, wood frame. \$400
- COST: Very Reasonably Sale Priced, Call For Info:**
CALL: DR. DENNIS LOKMER 808-572-2086
eMail: whoru@hawaiiantel.net