



CHIROPRACTIC NEWS & VIEWS

Presented by:
Hawaii State Chiropractic Association, Inc.

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HSCA JUNE 2016 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & OFFICERS & ISLAND DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

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**PLEASE JOIN US FRIDAY EVENING, 7:30PM, JUNE 10TH
AT THE SAINT LOUIS ALUMNI CLUBHOUSE...MEETING
OPEN TO ALL, MEMBERS & NON. 916 COOLIDGE ST., HONO.**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Joseph G Morelli Jr DC FICC, HSCA President & ACA Hawaii Delegate

Aloha All:

I am writing this after our HMSA, eviCore, Medicare Compliance Seminar held this past Saturday here on Oahu.

As you all know, this seminar was requested by the HSCA to better help Hawaii DC’s adapt and implement HMSA’s new Chiropractic Provider Services Policy that began on April 1st.

After many meetings with HMSA, and because of the significant inconsistencies in how HMSA’s different departments were handling our claims (even after all our input) a seminar program was finally held to get us on the same page.

Unfortunately, the process of putting on the program and the logistics became amazingly complicated!

Up until a few days before the seminar was to be held, HMSA had scheduled the program in their meeting rooms at their main campus building on Keeaumoku Street, in Honolulu.

But just days before the seminar, we were notified that the HMSA upper management had “booted us out” of the venue on their campus, and would find us a place at one of their other properties.

Apparently, CMS (the Centers for Medicare Services) decided to do a major audit of HMSA during the dates of our seminar. Additionally, HMSA’s federal insurance accrediting agency did a surprise concurrent audit.

The auditors took up all their meeting space for their teams to have a home base work area while going through their audit process. We were told by some HMSA staffers that CMS had two distinct teams auditing.

One team was to do an “internal audit”, while the other was to do an “external audit”.

The internal audit is to see if HMSA followed all the federal laws, rules and regulations in handling claims, funds, coverage contracts, etc. Auditors were combing through their data, financial records, internal communications, etc.

The external audit was to see if HMSA’s members, contracts, hospital and provider claims procedures were in proper compliance with federal law and regulations.

Here, the auditors were randomly reviewing hundreds, if not thousands of claims data to see if hospitals and providers, and their members were getting the coverage and payments that they contracted for.

All of HMSA was in a tizzy, since they had not been formally audited for 10 years. If things did not go well, they could be fined tens of millions of dollars, and possibly be forced to reprocess years of claims! And that’s just the CMS audit!

If the separate national insurance industry credentialing agency that was doing the other audit found deficiencies, they could suffer big problems in their ability to function. This could put many of their contracts and relationships with other agencies, carriers, etc. in jeopardy.

So, you can imagine why we were not HMSA’s top priority for our weekend seminar.

Unfortunately, they stuffed us in a meeting room at their Healthways offices at the Kaimukee Plaza Bldg. This room could only comfortably accommodate 50 or so people, while we had 75 doctors and staff attend!

To top it all off, there was no sound system there. Often times it was difficult for the attendees to hear some of the speakers.

On the positive side of the event, there were a few department heads there who finally heard your complaints and problems. (Thank you for not holding back with your questions!)

Almost all of the issues brought up had been discussed previously at our face to face meetings with HMSA. But, since we had little contact with those who actually oversee the claims processing work, we were always held at arm’s length regarding final solutions.

This seminar exposed some of the HMSA personnel to our concerns first hand. These representatives promised to take our issues back to their home base, and work out the bugs. (We shall see if they keep their word!)

One of the primary changes is that the mandated “exercises program” for all patients will be made optional, and will not trigger an automatic denial if not provided.

At the seminar, they did some problem solving and said that they would make some changes regarding claims processing glitches and their misinterpreting of the what and how of the services we provide. Because of these decisions being made on the fly at the seminar, there was some confusion on the dates these policy changes would be implemented.

I believe that is partly due to HMSA having to figure out the mechanics of how to implement these corrections to their system, and the 90 Notification Policy that they have in our provider contracts when making changes.

As soon as we get definitive actions and dates of implementation, we will send out notices and post on our HSCA website.

Here is the web link to HMSA’s current Chiropractic Provider Services Policy: (Not yet updated, but in force.)

https://hmsa.com/portal/provider/MM.12.018_Chiropractic_Services

We expect that the policy will be updated in the near future to reflect the promised changes. Any questions, please do not hesitate to call the HSCA line: (808) 926-8883

By the way...in the near future, we will be sending out by email to all the seminar attendees the Medicare & Compliance PowerPoint presentations from the seminar that were presented by Jean Matsushita of Noridian Healthcare.

One last item...This Friday night, June 10th is the HSCA Annual Elections for Officers & Island Directors. The following is the proposed slate of candidates:

Pres.: Dr. Joseph Morelli	V.P.: Dr. Jesse Broderson
Sec.: Dr. Randy Collins	Treas: Dr. Brandon Kikuchi
Oahu Dir.: Armando Garza	Oahu Dir: Dean Shivvers
Maui Dir.: Dr. James Pleiss	Kauai Dir.: Dr. Alice Ogawa
HI East: Dr. Robert Klein	HI West: Dr. Al Valenzuela

(Current Immediate Past Pres.: Dr. Gary Saito)

Please come to this General Membership Meeting & Elections at the St. Louis Alumni Clubhouse in Honolulu. Meeting will be teleconferenced to the neighbor islands. Please contact you Island Director for the location so you can attend.

Aloha,
Dr. JOE Morelli

LETTER TO MSN/MSNBC FROM ACA PRESIDENT

Editor's Note: MSN/MSNBC featured a video of a known Chiropractic "basher" entitled: "A Neurologist Explains Why Going to a Chiropractor May Be a Waste of Money!" This has caused many in the public to question Chiropractic effectiveness. In fact, in my own practice, I have had several patients bring up the video and ask how do I defend against the statements made by this neurologist.

ACA was deluged with questions and complaints and so the ACA Pres. Dr. David Herd wrote the following letter to MSN:

May 27, 2016

A video that recently appeared on the MSN homepage (and that is still accessible through the site) contains several errors. We request that the video be taken down immediately, as it perpetuates misinformation that is harmful to health care consumers.

"A Neurologist Explains Why Going to a Chiropractor May Be a Waste of Money," featuring Dr. Steven Novella, is a one-sided rant clearly intended to smear the reputation of the profession in the minds of health care consumers. In particular, Dr. Novella's statements that chiropractors "do essentially what they want" and that the industry is not properly regulated are false. Doctors of chiropractic (DCs) in the United States, like medical doctors, are subject to the boundaries established in state practice acts and are regulated by state licensing boards. Further, their education in four-year doctoral graduate school programs is nationally accredited through an agency that operates under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education. After graduation, they must pass national board exams before obtaining a license to practice, and then must maintain their license annually by earning continuing education (CE) credits through state-approved CE programs.

Dr. Novella references events of the past that have little bearing on the modern practice of chiropractic. Today, doctors of chiropractic (DCs) are designated as physician-level providers in the vast majority of states and the federal Medicare program. The services provided by DCs are available in federal health delivery systems, including those administered by Medicaid, Medicare, the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and Federal Workers' Compensation. Chiropractic services are included in all state workers' compensation programs, as well as most private insurance plans. In addition, DCs are included on the medical teams of all 32 professional football teams in the NFL and have for decades served as official staff on U.S. and international Olympic medical teams.

Contrary to what Dr. Novella states, there is in fact a growing body of research that validates the effectiveness of chiropractic services, leading many respected health care organizations to recommend chiropractic and its patient-centered, conservative-first drug-free approach. The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, in a 2013 patient page on low back pain, suggested patients consider chiropractic treatment before resorting to surgery. In 2015, the Joint Commission, the organization that accredits more than 20,000 health care systems in the U.S. including every major hospital, recognized the value of non-drug approaches in the face of the U.S. epidemic of prescription painkiller abuse by adding chiropractic to its pain management standard. The American College of Physicians and the American Pain Society jointly

recommended in 2007 that clinicians treating patients with low back pain consider spinal manipulation for patients who do not improve with self-care options.

More and more consumers are discovering the benefits of chiropractic. A 2015 Gallup survey indicated expanding utilization of chiropractic services, from 20.6 million Americans seeking the services of chiropractic physicians in 2012 to more than 33.6 million in 2014.

Dr. Novella's video with its multiple inaccuracies, not only is harmful to consumers who may genuinely seek information on which to base their health care decisions but also tarnishes MSN's credibility as a news outlet. Again, we request that the video be removed permanently from your site to prevent misleading health care consumers any further.

David A. Herd, DC

President, American Chiropractic Association

AMERICAN CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION LAUDS OPIOID LEGISLATION, RECOMMENDS INCREASED ACCESS TO NON-DRUG THERAPIES

The American Chiropractic Association (ACA) applauds the recent passage of several bills by Congress as a major first step in combating the nation's opioid epidemic. An important next step, according to the association, is expanding access to conservative treatments for pain in the country's health care system.

The House of Representatives passed 18 bills related to opioids earlier this month, and the Senate approved a comprehensive bill in March. While most of the House bills were related to further prescriber education, there were several that could lead to enhanced roles for the nation's doctors of chiropractic in battling this relatively new scourge. HR 4969, [the John Thomas Decker Act](#), directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to study what information and resources are available to youth athletes and their families regarding the dangers of opioid use, non-opioid treatment options, and how to seek addiction treatment. [HR 4981](#), the Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Expansion and Modernization Act, amends the Controlled Substances Act to ensure patients have access to a wider range of comprehensive, evidence-based treatment options, and helps minimize the potential for drug diversion.

"It's clear that the federal government has recognized the toll opioid overuse and addiction has taken on this country and is taking positive steps to address this epidemic," said ACA President David Herd, DC. "Efforts must now be directed toward educating health care providers and the public about conservative forms of pain management that can be used as a first line of defense in treatment – and expanding access to those services."

Chiropractic physicians have long been concerned about the growing reliance on prescription medications for pain. At this year's annual meeting of ACA's House of Delegates in Washington, D.C., delegates adopted a policy statement in response to the dual public health concerns of inadequate pain management and opioid abuse. The new policy supports the investigation of nonpharmacologic interventions for pain treatment across a variety of patient populations and healthcare delivery settings; the promotion of evidence-based

nonpharmacologic therapies within best practice models for pain management; the improvement of access to providers of nonpharmacologic therapies; interprofessional education to augment the training of pain management teams; and public health campaigns to raise awareness of drug-free treatment options for pain syndromes.

ACA's new policy statement is part of the chiropractic profession's ongoing efforts to educate the public about the value of exhausting non-invasive, non-pharmaceutical approaches for pain management before moving on to higher risk options. This conservative care first health care model encourages, when appropriate, the use of more cost-effective and safer approaches over potentially addictive medications, surgery and other invasive procedures.

"Chiropractic physicians are well positioned to serve as a first line of defense in the conservative management of acute and chronic pain," added Dr. Herd. "They offer conservative-first, drug-free approaches as well as guidance on self care, that can provide needed relief for many who suffer from pain."

More than 33.6 million Americans sought chiropractic care in 2014, compared with a previously reported estimate of 20.6 million in 2012, according to a 2015 Gallup report commissioned by Palmer College of Chiropractic.

The House and Senate will now work to develop a comprehensive bill to include provisions passed by both chambers, with the hope in getting it to the president's desk soon.

>>EQUIPMENT FOR SALE<<

- -Digital CR X-ray Scanner with Eponatech software and (6) 11x14 plates and (4) 8x10 plates \$5,000 /obo
- -TXR tingle high frequency generator -call
- -2 x Omni Multi Drop Chiropractic Tables - \$1,200 each obo
- -2 x Regainer Chair Traction Units - \$100 each obo
- -Superior Chiropractic Table - \$500
- -Oxygen Concentrator - \$200
- -CLA Insight Millenium Subluxation Station with lots of extras - \$1,800
- -Axon-Neural Scan - Electro-Diagnostic Sensory Nerve Conduction Device - call
- -Lots of CBP traction devices, weighted bags, headstraps, etc. – call for price
- -Standing Scoliosis traction unit / Waller adjusting pad. - \$500
- -Lots of chiropractic tools, equipment and teaching aids.

Call: 808-779-0144

>>HSCA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING<<

(All invited whether HSCA Member or Non)

AGENDA: Annual Election of Officers
 HI Legislature Review & wrap-up
 HMSA/ObamaCare Ins. Issues

DATE: Friday, June 10, 2016

PLACE: Oahu: St. Louis Alumni Clubhouse
 Neighbor Isle's: Contact your Island
 Director for meeting location

TIME: 7:30pm HSCA ph: (808) 926-8883