



# Collaboration between Chiropractors and MD's A Challenge or an Opportunity?

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UNM School of Medicine SIMPLE  
Conference, October 14, 2004



# American Academy of Chiropractic Physicians

- The mission of the AACCP is to promote the health of the American people through the use of chiropractic medicine, to advance the training of chiropractic physicians through education, advocacy, and communication.



# American Academy of Chiropractic Physicians

- AACCP supports rational and evidence-based approaches, using critical thinking, outcomes, and the best evidence available in the physician's decision making process.



# Collaborative Ventures

- Texas Back Institute
- Veterans Administration
- U.S. Department of Defense
- American Hospitals



# Texas Back Institute

- Largest freestanding spine specialty clinic in the United States
- Provides comprehensive medical care for individuals with back and neck pain
- Integrated clinical practice
- Academic and research programs



# Texas Back Institute

- Provides a complete team of highly trained medical professionals, non-surgical treatment protocols and rehabilitation
- Orthopedic and general surgeons (10), internists, physiatrists (2), and chiropractors(4)
- Spine fellowship training



# Veterans Administration

- 26 sites, including Albuquerque, will offer chiropractic services
- VHA policy allows medical centers and clinics to offer chiropractic spinal manipulative therapy for musculoskeletal problems of the spine, following a referral from a VA clinician.



# Department of Defense Chiropractic Health Care Program

- 42 Military Bases provide chiropractic services
- Active duty personnel are eligible
- Primary care manager refers patients with neuro-musculoskeletal conditions



# Hospital Integration of Chiropractic Medicine

- U.S. News & World News Report reports that 105 American hospitals provide chiropractic services
- American Hospital Association's complementary and alternative medicine survey – 2000-2001



# AHA 2000-2001 Survey

- Almost 60% of medical schools offer courses in CAM
- 15% of hospitals offer CAM services
- 90% offered outpatient chiropractic services



# AHA 2000-2001 Survey

- Research funded by NIH/National Center for CAM will help to validate the clinical efficacy of CAM therapies
- CAM education should be integrated into required courses.
- The majority of CAM services are reimbursed as an outpatient fee-for-service.



# AHA 2000-2001 Survey

- Suggested reimbursement strategy is to integrate CAM into existing programs such as pain management, oncology, etc. rather than offering an outpatient fee-for-service basis.



# AHA 2000-2001 Survey

- Chiropractic credentialing requires hospital administrators to educate themselves so they can begin to credential these providers
- Chiropractic providers are licensed in all states
- Standardized national exams



# Manga Report

- A Study to Examine the Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness of Chiropractic Management of Low-Back Pain

By

Pran Manga, Ph.D.

Douglas E. Angus, M.A.

Costa Papadopoulos, MHA

William R. Swan, B.Comm.

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# Manga Report

- There would be highly significant cost savings if more management of LBP was transferred from medical physicians to chiropractors



# Manga Report

- Chiropractic services should be fully integrated into the health care system
- Chiropractors should be employed by tertiary hospitals



# How Chiropractic Services are Provided

- Chiropractic physicians perform E/M, manipulation, physical medicine and rehabilitation procedures, plus spinal manipulation under anesthesia
- Chiropractic providers may order laboratory and radiology services



# Location of Services

- Hospital inpatient services
- Outpatient services
  - Physician's office
  - Outpatient facility
  - Ambulatory facility



# Potential Health Sciences Center Opportunities

- Chiropractic services should be offered at primary care sites
- Spinal manipulation under anesthesia could be offered at either an ambulatory surgical site or the operating room



# Potential Health Sciences Center Opportunities

- Chiropractic services should be offered within existing departments
- Internal medicine and primary care
- Orthopedics and MUA
- Pain management, Occupational medicine, Sports medicine, and Physical medicine



# Lovelace Chiropractic Experience “What we learned”

- Physicians are willing to refer patients
- Physicians are satisfied with results
- Many physicians have no objection to receiving a competent and personable chiropractor as their professional colleague



# Lovelace Chiropractic Experience

## “What we learned”

- Patients like the seamless aspect of having chiropractors and physicians in the same healthcare system
- Patients expect increased access to chiropractic services within an integrated delivery system

“Can Medicine and Chiropractic Practice Side by Side? Implications for Healthcare Delivery.” Hospital Topics: Research and Perspectives on Healthcare, Spring 1999



# Chiropractic Integration Challenges

- Finding a champion
- Stakeholder involvement
- Designating the management team
- Business model



# Chiropractic Integration Challenges

- Political buy-in
- Credentialing providers
- Education of staff



# How Chiropractic Services are Billed and Reimbursed

- The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
- Evaluation and Management (E/M) Codes
- Chiropractic Manipulative Treatment Codes
- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Codes
- International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9)
- Resource-Based Relative Value Scale



# ACA's 2004 Chiropractic Coding Solutions Manual

- Federal Employee Plan (FEP) section
- Color coded tabs for easy searching
- Clinical examples
- Insurance-related sample appeal letters
- Glossary of terms
- American Chiropractic Association (703)  
276-8800



# Thank you

- Question and answer session