

CHIROPRACTIC
FELLOWSHIP OF
PENNSYLVANIA

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CFOP MISSION STATEMENT

The *CHIROPRACTIC FELLOWSHIP OF PENNSYLVANIA* works to preserve, promote and defend the philosophy, science and art of chiropractic, with emphasis on the vertebral subluxation and innate principle.

Providing leadership through legislation, education, and communication, the *CHIROPRACTIC FELLOWSHIP OF PENNSYLVANIA* works to eliminate barriers that restrict access to or infringe upon the practice of chiropractic.

Through a highly trained staff, the *CHIROPRACTIC FELLOWSHIP OF PENNSYLVANIA* addresses professional and fellowship needs by providing practice information and benefits to enrich lives and practices.

CFoP *Straight Talk*

FEBRUARY 2008

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“VERTEBRAL SUBLUXATION AWARENESS MONTH”

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

INTRODUCED AS
NONCONTROVER-
SIAL RESOLUTION
UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 26,2007

A RESOLUTION
*Commending the Chi-
ropractic Fellowship of
Pennsylvania* for its
educational efforts, and
recognizing the month
of September as
*"Vertebral Subluxa-
tion Awareness
Month" in Pennsyl-
vania.*

WHEREAS, Optimum
performance and health
of the human body de-
pends on the unfettered,
free transmission of
mental impulses, or
nerve impulses, be-
tween the brain and all
cells, tissues and or-
gans; and

WHEREAS, The flow of
mental impulses be-

tween the brain and the
body passes through the
vertebrae of the spinal
column; and

WHEREAS, Blockages
of mental impulses,
called vertebral sub-
luxations occur when a
vertebra misaligns, oc-
cludes an opening, im-
pinges on a nerve or
otherwise interferes
with neurotransmission;
and

WHEREAS, A vertebral
subluxation can occur
regardless of the pres-
ence or absence of
symptoms; and

WHEREAS, Doctors of
chiropractic are the li-
censed professionals
uniquely trained to lo-
cate, analyze and cor-
rect vertebral subluxa-
tions that compromise a
person's health and

well-being; therefore be
it RESOLVED, That
the House of Represent-
atives commend the
Chiropractic Fellowship
of Pennsylvania for its
efforts in educating the
public about the impor-
tance of having spinal
checks for vertebral
subluxations; and be it
further RESOLVED,
that *the House of Rep-
resentatives recognize
the month of Septem-
ber as "Vertebral Sub-
luxation Awareness
Month" in Pennsyl-
vania.*

*A great profession can
only be sustained
through the authentic
transmission of its princi-
ples from generation to
generation."*

Dr. Fred Barge



MORE MEDICARE NEWS

For the most recent evaluation by the CERT program (to evaluate errors in reporting and documentation of services) chiropractors have made tremendous advances in compliance. There was only one error in the most recent three month exam period. In order to continue to do well in compliance for the profession, always remember to 1.) Send notes promptly when requested by the CERT contractor and 2.) Send all the notes that are requested.

Highmark Medicare Services recently listed the top two reasons to reject chiropractic claims. They involve filling out the HCFA claim correctly and having it match up with the information in your notes. Remember that the HCFA is completed differently for Medicare than for any other insurance company when it comes to Box 14 and Box 19.

Box 14: Date of First Treatment for the condition being treated. This is NOT for the date of injury. Placing a date in this box also attests that this is a valid service and that you have the required documentation on file (see Chapter 9 of the Medicare Providers Manual).

Box 19: Date of X-ray OR Physical Exam documenting the presence of a subluxation. The date of X-ray must be within 12 months of the Date of First Treatment (Box 14). If using the Physical Exam, documentation of the P.A.R.T. must be reflected in your notes.

The next South Central Meeting will be in the spring and will feature a guest speaker that will be “Putting the Fellowship back into Chiropractic.” Mailers and email will give details in a timely fashion.

Area Meeting in South East Region featured Dr Tedd Koren

The South Central Region held an open meeting on November 15, 2007 at the General Lafayette Inn in Lafayette Hill. Chaired by Dr Stuart Katzen (South Central Regional Director) the meeting was entitled “Fighting the Quackbusters.” Dr Tedd Koren was the guest speaker and detailed the recent defeat of quackbuster Stephen Barrett, as well as updating childhood vaccinations and the latest on Koren Specific Technique. More than 35 doctors and staff members were in attendance. Dr Katzen would like to acknowledge a special “thank you” to the following donors and sponsors of the meeting: Dean Depice’s TLC for Superteams; Now You Know; CLA; Life University; Koren Publications and Beth’s Healing Arts.

The next South Central Meeting will be in the spring and will feature a guest speaker that will be “Putting the Fellowship back into Chiropractic.” Mailers and email will give details in a timely fashion.

IT IS TIME

The Chiropractic Fellowship was first created for two reasons: to protect Chiropractors that wanted to advertise the chiropractic message, & to be able to advertise free spinal x-rays. The organization grew to become the major voice to protect the vertebral subluxation complex, & to prevent other chiropractic organizations in Pennsylvania from forcing chiropractors into the Medical Model if they chose to stay within the Chiropractic Model of Wellness & Quality of Life.

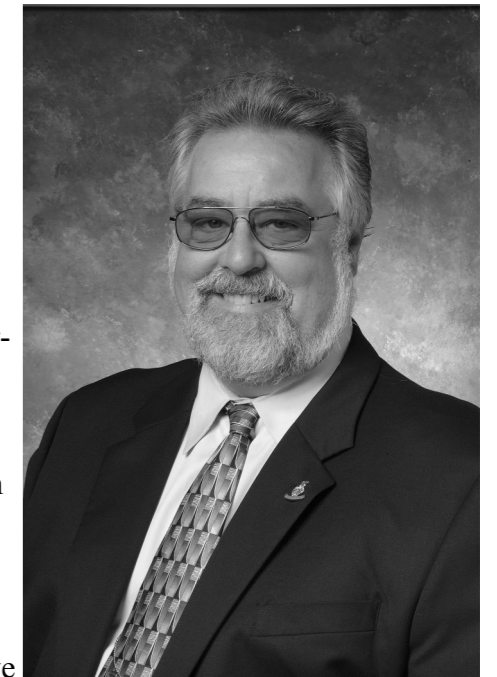
The political battles raged for years between the chiropractic organizations. One group continued further into the Medical Model for insurance coverage acceptance, while the Fellowship continued to protect the Chiropractic Model for insurance acceptance. As the insurance industry continued to keep changing codes, rules, & procedures, it was necessary for both chiropractic organizations to keep current on today’s changing insurance information. Though this is very important to protect their members for re-imbursement, the insurance industry has changed many chiropractors’ views in the understanding of our Chiropractic Philosophy & Principles. How? By keeping chiropractors focused on symptoms (the Medical Model) instead of the Vertebral Subluxation & the detrimental effects on the body’s integrity.

It is so interesting that many chiropractic organizations seem to exist solely to protect the chiropractor’s income for insurance re-imbursement, instead of promoting the benefits of chiropractic & the dangers of the vertebral subluxation. Today, many chiropractors are so far into the Medical Model that they have lost any vision or any understanding of the Principles & Philosophy of Chiropractic. These chiropractors are totally dependent on the payments from the insurance companies that they are willing to embrace the medical procedures in order to stay in the game.

There are others in the chiropractic profession that still love the Principles & Philosophy of Chiropractic & are accepting insurance coverage from their patients. To these chiropractors, they feel that they are helping the patient by getting re-imbursement from the insurance industry. But are they really? Most patients will quit care after insurance payments have stopped, or the chiropractor will reduce care before the patient is ready in order to keep the patient under some kind of chiropractic care. So

it is still important for the Chiropractic Fellowship to keep updated on the procedures of the insurance industry for those chiropractors still billing insurance. I have been in practice for 38 years, & what I am seeing are chiropractors bogged down with excessive paper work, being challenged on their care, increased costs in assistants who manage the insurance requirements, waiting for their payments, & just not having fun in their practice anymore.

There are many Chiropractic Philosophers who are joining the Chiropractic Fellowship in Pennsylvania to create a home for chiropractors that want to get their **Chiropractic Passion** & fun back in their practice through programs being developed in the study of the Principles & Philosophy of Chiropractic. I believe that the apathy within this profession stems from the lack of grounding within the Chiropractic Philosophy & Principles, & it is time to get back into basics & begin to have fun within the practice. For those that are already members of the Fellowship, it is time to get more involved by obtaining new members, as well as getting more involved to create a home for the Fellowship, an organization that has a main purpose of protecting the Chiropractic Philosophy & Principles. I am asking as a new member of the Chiropractic Fellowship Board to bring back fun in the chiropractic practice & to help our patients have a better Quality of Life by getting chiropractors back into the elimination of the vertebral subluxation complex, as they are detrimental to one’s health.



SKIP GEORGE, D.C., LCP
SOUTH CENTRAL DIRECTOR

Skip George, D.C., LCP
South Central Director

THE BIG IDEA

- A slip on the snowy sidewalk in winter is a small thing. It happens to millions.
 - A fall from a ladder in the summer is a small thing. It also happens to millions.
- The slip or fall produces a Subluxation. The Subluxation is a small thing.
 - The Subluxation produces pressure on a nerve. That pressure is a small thing.
- That decreased flowing produces a dis-eased body and brain. That is a big thing to that man.
 - Multiply that sick man by a thousand, and you control the physical and mental welfare of a city.
- Multiply that man by one hundred thirty million, and you forecast and can prophesy the physical and mental status of a nation.
 - So the slip or fall, the Subluxation, pressure, flow of mental images, and disease are big enough to control the thoughts and actions of a nation.
 - Now comes a man. And one man is a small thing.
- This man gives an adjustment. The adjustment is a small thing.
 - The adjustment replaces the Subluxation. That is a small thing.
- The adjusted Subluxation releases pressure upon nerves. That is a small thing.
 - The released pressure restores health to a man. This is a big thing to that man.



- Multiply that well man by a million, and you increase the efficiency of a state.
 - Multiply that well man by a hundred thirty million, and you have produced a healthy, wealthy, and better race for posterity.
- So, the adjustment of the Subluxation to release pressure upon nerves, to restore mental impulse flow, to restore health, is big enough to rebuild the thoughts and actions of the World.
 - The idea that knows the cause, that can correct the cause of dis-ease, is one of the biggest ideas known. Without it, nations fall; with it, nations rise.
- The idea is the biggest I know of. — *B.J. Palmer, 1944*

(NGC), a public resource for evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. NGC is an initiative of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), US Department of Health and Human Services.

The CCP and its official published documents were accepted for inclusion in the Healthcare Standards Database and the printed version of the Healthcare Standards: Official Directory. Healthcare Standards (HCS) is a comprehensive list of published standards, guidelines recommendations, position papers, policy statements, technology assessments, and other authoritative documents. ECRI is the WHO's official health care standards and guidelines archive. HCS is used daily in legal and clinical settings by a wide variety of medical and legal professionals such as: risk managers, litigators, paralegals, legal nurse consultants, medical and legal librarians, patient safety officers, biomedical engineers, insurance carriers and more.

When challenged by regulators, policy makers, or in

courtroom proceedings, where will you find the resources to defend your practice? If your vision of chiropractic embraces lifetime, subluxation-based wellness care, you need CCP. The Council on Chiropractic clinical practice guidelines have been used to successfully support the ability of persons to receive chiropractic care for vertebral subluxations to improve function and quality of life. Care is based upon indicators of vertebral subluxation, not the presence of a short list of medical conditions.

To remain in the National Guideline Clearinghouse, guidelines must be updated every 5 years. The CCP update is due in 2008, and is proceeding largely through the efforts of volunteers. But now we need your help. Contribute generously to the Council on Chiropractic Practice (CCP) to continue to serve you by developing guidelines that are congruent with your vision of chiropractic. We look forward to having you join us, to preserve our sacred trust.



Highmark Medicare Services issues CD to Medicare Providers

Highmark Medicare Services has sent a CD of information and internet links to the chiropractors that are registered with the Medicare Part B program. This CD contains updated information from Medicare, as well as the "Medicare Reports" from 12/05 to 9/07. The quarterly reports include information on: the appeals process (12/05, page 11); definitions of acute and chronic subluxation and phase of treatment (12/05, page 68); new appeals information requirements (9/06, page 5); signature requirement on Medicare notes (6/07, page 39); and the new PO Box to submit chiropractic claims (9/07, page 41).

Although the new 2008 Medicare Fee Schedule is not on the CD, you may obtain the new fees at the Highmark website. Go to www.highmarkmedicare.com and follow the menu to providers and fee schedules.

Please be sure to update the address to send chiropractic claims to Medicare. The new address is: PO Box 890418, Camp Hill, PA 17089-0418.

CCGPP Vs. CCP

By Christopher Kent, D.C., Esq.

The draft of the newest chapter of the "Best Practices" document released by the Council on Chiropractic Guidelines and Practice Parameters (CCGPP) contains statements and conclusions that could prove devastating to the chiropractic profession. In it, the CCGPP gives rogue regulatory boards the weapons they need to go after and sanction subluxation based chiropractors who provide this care, and third party payers the ammunition they need to deny reimbursement for subluxation care apart from NMS conditions.

The chapter, entitled "Chiropractic Management of Prevention and Health Promotion; Nonmusculoskeletal Conditions; And Conditions Of The Elderly, Children And Pregnant Women," makes it clear that, from the data the CCGPP members considered, there is not enough evidence to support the use of chiropractic care for patients who are not presenting with specific non-musculoskeletal health issues. Shockingly, the CCGPP also ignored all case studies, regardless of how many patients were involved. It explained its decision only with the statement that "even though there are a large number of patients described in case reports, these reports can only provide evidence that patients with the conditions described have sought care from chiropractors; case reports cannot provide convincing evidence to support best practices."

It takes little imagination to see what state boards and other regulators will do with this," he warned. "In today's politically charged atmosphere, a board could easily target a particular class of doctors and charge them with endangering patients by providing care unsupported by research and disavowed by the CCGPP guidelines.

What's really going on? There is a well-choreographed plan to sculpt the future of the profession. It casts chiropractic as a profession that uses crude manipulation for the short term symptomatic treatment of a narrow range of spinal pain syndromes. It involves either denying the very existence of vertebral subluxation, or at best downgrading it to a local mechanical lesion. The use of objective assessments is dismissed. Instead, care is based primarily on symptomatic response, without regard for



Christopher Kent, DC, Esq.

Dr. Kent, president of the Council on Chiropractic Practice, is a 1973 graduate of Palmer College of Chiropractic, and a Diplomate and Fellow of the ICA College of Chiropractic Imaging. He was named the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) "Chiropractic Researcher of the Year" in 1991, and he was the recipient of that honor from World Chiropractic Alliance (WCA) in 1994. Dr. Kent was also selected "Chiropractor of the Year" in 1998 by the International Chiropractors Association. He is the Main Representative of the WCA to the Department of Public

Information, affiliated with the United Nations, and former chair of the NGO Health Committee, the first chiropractor elected to that position. He is the author of articles in peer-reviewed and popular journals, a contributor to textbooks, and has served on the postgraduate faculties of several chiropractic colleges. Dr. Kent is co-founder of the Chiropractic Leadership Alliance (CLA). An attorney as well as a chiropractor, Dr. Kent is an active member of the State Bar of California, and is admitted as an attorney of the United States District Court, Southern District of California.

x-ray or neurofunctional changes. Of course, lifetime wellness care is unthinkable in this model.

Thankfully, DCs who focus on subluxation and wellness care have a resource to defend themselves: the Council on Chiropractic Practice (CCP) guideline. The guideline is a compilation of the best available evidence concerning the detection, management, and correction of vertebral subluxation. It serves as a tool to empower DCs with the information needed to develop more effective clinical strategies, and objectively assess functional and clinical outcomes. The document also provides chiropractors with the intellectual ammunition needed to The chiropractic guideline document, "Vertebral Subluxation in Chiropractic Practice," produced by the CCP was reviewed by an independent research agency (ECRI) which is a Collaborating Center of the World Health Organization (WHO). Based on this review, it was accepted for inclusion in the National Guideline Clearinghouse

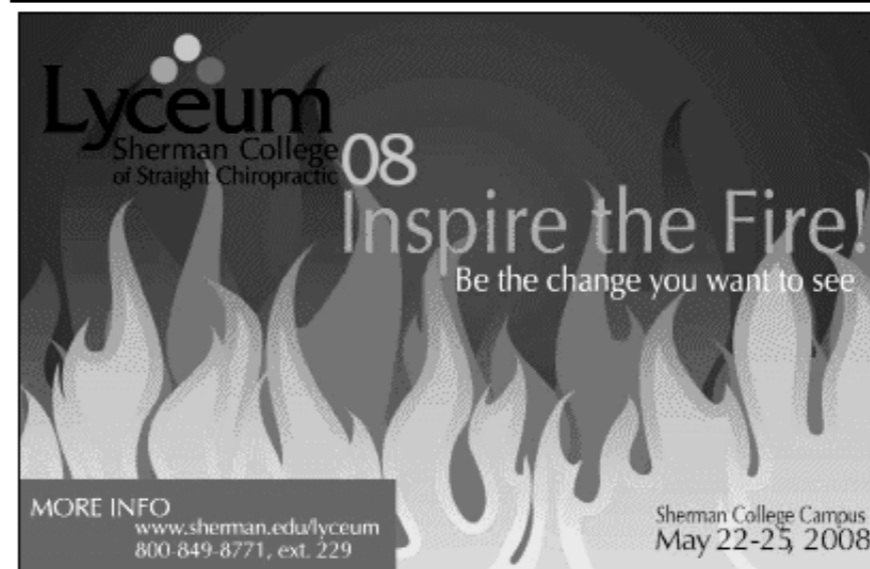
CE CREDITS DUE THIS YEAR

The two year rotation for renewing CE credits will come due this August of 2008. In preparation for these requirements (24 credit hours of board approved education) the Fellowship will be having presentations on Chiropractic Science, Art and Philosophy.

Please visit our website www.chirofellowpa.org or look for future newsletters on the programs that will be presented.

ADVANCING CHIROPRACTIC THE PORTLAND PROJECT

In the winter of 2006, a dedicated group of chiropractors from around the globe met in Portland, Oregon, to identify key issues facing the profession today, and resolved to work toward finding viable and productive solutions that will advance the cause of chiropractic. Find out more at www.advancingchiropractic.com



**CHECK OUT THESE
CHIROPRACTIC
PROGRAMS !**

April 24,25,26,27, 2008

**Find out more at
www.nbchiro.com**

