

KCA COMMUNIQUE

Aug. / Sept. 2007

KCA
1334 S. Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612
785-233-0697
www.kansaschiro.com

**SERVING MEMBERS
SINCE 1911**

KCA Officers

President:
Gail Boyer, DC
Lenexa

Vice President:
Kenyon Erickson, DC
Manhattan

Secretary/Treasurer:
Paul Brackeen, DC
Derby

Past President:
Tim Warren, DC
Wichita

KCA Staff

Executive Director:
John Kiefhaber

Financial Manager:
Teresa Arb

Administrative Assistant:
Sharlis Lingard

Kansas Chiropractic Foundation

President:
Dennis Scharenberg, DC
Hillsboro

KCA Insurance Committee

Member Survey. On August 9 members of the KCA Insurance Relations Committee met in Topeka to review work they had done on several insurance issues that had been submitted this year to the Committee. Claims denials under Medicare and other insurance carriers were analyzed and discussed, and Committee Chairperson Dr. Tim Warren reported that research on each problem had been reported back to the member doctor. In some cases legal counsel was consulted. In most cases patient record documentation and the selection of the proper billing codes were the focus of the issue with insurance companies.

As a result, the Committee is requesting detailed documentation from member doctors of claims denials where the patient is being denied needed chiropractic care. PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DATA TO THE KCA OFFICE (1334 S. Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66612 or john@kansaschiro.com) OR DIRECTLY TO DR. WARREN (1415 W. 31st St. South, Wichita, KS 67217 or warrentim@msn.com):

1. a copy of the original claim for payment.
2. a copy of doctor's notes documenting the patient's diagnosis and plan of care
3. a copy of the claim denial with reasons given

The KCA Insurance Relations Committee will be presenting the statistical results of this survey, along with actual examples of claims cases from volunteer doctors, at the upcoming KCA Fall

Convention, October 26-28 in Topeka. Please mark your calendars for this event.

Dr. Kessinger is Coming Back.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 12-hour CE seminar "Chiropractic Family Practice" by Dr. Jack Kessinger scheduled for December 1-2, 2007 at a Wichita location to be announced. The seminar fee will be \$250, with a portion of the revenues going to the Kansas Chiropractic Association.

KCA Medicare Committee Blasts CMS on X-Ray Proposal.

Along with some individual doctors who have submitted objections, the KCA Medicare Committee has sent a letter of objection to a new Medicare proposal to drop payment for outside X-rays used by chiropractors. The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) maintains in its July proposal that Medicare recipients were only allowed chiropractic X-ray because of an earlier requirement that subluxation be documented through X-ray evidence. That requirement for Medicare payment was dropped in 2000, and the agency is now announcing that it should have dropped payment for outside chiropractic X-ray at that time. KCA and ACA are strongly opposing this proposal, pointing out in letters to the agency that X-ray services are an important part of chiropractic diagnosis and that sending the patient back to a primary care physician for X-ray services is more expensive and will delay needed treatment. You can view KCA's letter to CMS on the KCA website at

www.kansaschiro.com/legislative.

Be Sure You Have Marked October 26-28, 2007 on Your CE Calendar. Your registration packet with all the details for this year's KCA Fall Convention will be out any day now. Expert seminar speakers are lined up this year and special recreational events are going to be announced. Watch your mail.

ACA National Chiropractic Month is October. Go to www.acatoday.com for information about doctor kits for this year's events. The focus this time is on quality sleep.

Interim Committee Hears Opposition on Administrative Appeals. The Special Committee on Judiciary, meeting throughout the summer and fall to consider a variety of issues, heard testimony in the Capitol August 28 from 17 state licensing boards and commissions concerning administrative appeals by license holders. Among the agencies ganging up in opposition to proposals to use the Department of Administration for final decisions on licensing questions was the Board of Healing Arts. Legislators have historically been told by some constituents that it is unfair to take a licensing revocation appeal back to the agency head of the agency that revoked the license. But agencies argue that it takes professional or industry expertise that only they possess to understand the issues in license revocations, and that they are paid to be fair.

In its written testimony submitted to the Committee the Board of Healing Arts said that it "has gone to great lengths to assure licensees and applicants of due process and a fair and impartial hearing. The Board

does not appoint any of its full-time employees as presiding officers. Formal disciplinary proceedings are not initiated until a Disciplinary Panel of 4-5 Board members authorizes filing of a case."

The Board also cited the fact that final decision-making at the Department of Administration's Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) would remove the exercise of any discretionary authority for which these agencies were originally created. Other testimony focused on the fact that expert witnesses would be needed in many cases because the OAH would not have the professional or industry knowledge needed to understand and evaluate the actions of the licensees at issue.

"Reviewing Doctor" Needed for CCGPP Work. KCA is looking for another volunteer member to assist in the review of newly-released chapters of the Council on Chiropractic Guidelines and Practice Parameters (CCGPP) evaluation of the state of research on conditions commonly treated by doctors of chiropractic. At this point the Introduction, Methods and Preface chapters have appeared for review. Additional chapters, such as Wellness, Nonmusculoskeletal Conditions and Special Populations, and Upper Extremity Conditions are essentially complete and will appear soon. Other chapters to come will cover cervical spine, soft tissue, thoracic spine and lower extremities topics. CCGPP, in cooperation with COCSA, is calling for a review committee of doctors from each state association to do the review work.

A previous draft of the low back evidence stratification was released for public comment a year ago and was the subject of significant initial

controversy, much of which was resolved in a meeting of stakeholders last November. That chapter will be further delayed while more research on diagnostic issues is performed. Dr. Carl Cleveland will co-chair a committee to develop a chapter on subluxation.

The CCGPP reports that a large number of urgent requests have been voiced by the profession for high quality evidence of efficacy to support care, particularly in addressing third party payor denials and to assist in regulatory hearings. The Council sees the need and challenge to teach doctors of chiropractic about evidence based care because federal government initiatives looming on the horizon will require "performance measures" to support reimbursement policy.

To volunteer to assist the KCA review committee call or e-mail Dr. Gail Boyer, KCA President (913/492-9290 or drgboyer@aol.com) or John Kieffhaber, KCA Executive Director (785/233-0697 or john@kansaschiro.com).

.....
Always Check
www.kansaschiro.com
.....

Upcoming KCA Meeting Dates. Call or e-mail KCA for times and locations of the following meetings:

- KC Metro District, Sept. 12.
- Northeast District Party, Sept. 15.
- Insurance Committee, Sept. 20.
- KC Metro CE, Oct. 10.
- Sedgwick District, Oct. 23.