

KCA COMMUNIQUE

June/July 2009

KCA
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SINCE 1911**

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Board of Healing Arts Votes Unanimously to Reconsider “Chiropractic Physician” Issue.

After receiving a second letter from the KCA explaining that the Board’s August, 2008 decision to disallow the use of “chiropractic physician” in Kansas was in grave error, and that legal action might be necessary to resolve the issue, the Board of Healing Arts members all voted to put the issue back on its August, 2009 meeting agenda. KCA members and staff expect to be heard again at that meeting on the importance of this decision to the chiropractic profession and to its patients around the state.

Faced with a 12-3 Board vote last August against the use of the term, KCA went to work researching the issue and made a 45-minute presentation to the Board in April, explaining that there is no evidence of confusion on the part of the public about the difference between a chiropractic physician and a medical doctor. In addition, KCA had found that the legal analysis presented last year to the Board needed to be updated given statutory changes that had occurred. At the end of this presentation the Board voted 7-7 on a motion to reconsider the issue – a moral victory for KCA, but not enough to change the state policy back to where it had been.

KCA then delivered another letter to the Board outlining its arguments again: 1) no harm to the public, 2) risk of adverse insurance company reactions, 3) possible loss of

confidence through public perception of the chiropractic profession, and 4) the need for updated legal analysis. A motion was then planned for the June 12 Board meeting to bring the issue for a re-vote by a member who had not been present at the previous Board meeting, but an agreement was reached among members to do a full reconsideration of the issue at the Board’s next meeting in August. While this progress has been slow, KCA leadership is convinced that we will prevail in our campaign to reinstate the use of the “chiropractic physician” terminology in Kansas. We are working very hard to avoid legal action in this situation. More coming in August!

KCA Meets Sam Brownback.

Cleveland Chiropractic College invited KCA to join their welcoming party for the June 15 visit to the Overland Park campus by Kansas Senator Sam Brownback. The senator was being welcomed and thanked for his role in appropriating approximately \$190,000 in federal funds to support a new CCC master’s program in allied health. Greeting the senator and introducing KCA on stage for the all-student assembly were Dr. Tobi Jeurink, KCA board member and CCC faculty member, Dr. Richard Brown, president of the KC Metro district, and John Kiefhaber, KCA Executive Director. Students questioned Senator Brownback about chiropractic being included in the upcoming health care reform package starting to move through Congress, but they did not get much satisfaction from his response.

Republicans in the U.S. Senate are banding together at this point in supporting a market-driven, private insurance solution to the health care coverage issue. He said that although he is a chiropractic patient and supports chiropractic services, he and others are not prepared to prescribe which health care services should be required under a national plan.

We Still Need More!

National chiropractic organizations, who have banded together (the Summit) to make sure chiropractic is at the table for health care reform, still need more doctors and patients to sign up for the campaign. Go to chirovoice.org (ACA) or adjustthevote.org (ICA) to register yourself and any of your patients willing to help the cause of greater access to chiropractic care.

Welcome New KCA Members.

The following doctors have signed up for a new membership in 2009:

Dr. Timothy DeWitt, KC Metro District
Dr. Kevin Stallbaumer, KC Metro District
Dr. Craig Siefkes, Davenport, Iowa
Dr. Todd Spilker, North Central District
Dr. Adam Pfannenstiel, Sedgwick District
Dr. Teresa Volner, KC Metro District
Dr. Larry Dall, North Central District
Dr. Thad Dall, North Central District
Dr. Sean Binkley, Northeast District
Dr. Arley Polley, KC Metro District
Dr. Kristina Jones, Southeast District

Surcharge Rates Adopted by HCSF Board

The Health Care Stabilization Fund Board of Governors recently approved the schedule of premium surcharges for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009. Most physicians and hospitals will experience a modest increase ranging from three to eight percent. The percentage increase is based on a thorough actuarial analysis of the five-year loss ratio for each category of health care provider.

Chiropractors, podiatrists, nurse anesthetists, and some low-risk physician specialties will continue to pay the same premium surcharge they paid in fiscal year 2009. Most primary care physicians who perform minor surgery or other

invasive procedures will pay five percent more in fiscal year 2010 as will most surgical specialists. Health Care Stabilization Fund premium surcharges are collected by the primary insurer if the health care provider is a Kansas resident. If, however, the health care provider is a non-resident who is licensed to practice in Kansas, he or she must complete a certification form and remit the surcharge payment directly to the HCSF Board of Governors. Because the Board of Governors decided to make some changes effective July 1 this year, it is important for all insurers and non-resident health care providers to review the new brochures outlining these changes.

KCA Dates Coming Up.

July 11 – New Doctor Seminar – Overland Park
August 15 – KCA Board Mtg. – Hays
August 15-16 – Rad. Tech Training – Wichita
September 12 – Legal Issues Seminar -- Wichita
September 15 – Sedgwick Dist. Mtg.
KC Metro Dist. Mtgs. – 2nd Wed. Monthly -- CCC
October 13 – Sedgwick Dist. Mtg.
October 15 – KCA Board Mtg. – Overland Park
October 16-18 – Convention – Overland Park

UPDATE from Your Insurance Relations Committee.

There has been a national class action settlement for failure to pay PIP with Allstate. The notices will be going out in a short amount of time and there will be a very short window to submit claims (45 days). We are letting everyone know that this will be coming. It will probably go back about 10 years. You will need to get their Allstate PIP denials put together right away to keep from losing this claim.

Always check
www.kansaschiro.com