

# KCA COMMUNIQUE

February/March 2010

**KCA**  
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**SERVING MEMBERS  
SINCE 1911**

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## Kansas Chiropractic Foundation

### **Vice President:**

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## **Legislators Turn Out for TALL**

Senate and House members came out in what may have been record numbers last month for the annual KCA "Take-a-Legislator-to-Lunch" (TALL) event's evening reception in Topeka. Doctors and students from Cleveland Chiropractic College had turned out for a full day of touring the Kansas capitol building, lunching with legislators and sitting in on a meeting of the KCA Board of Directors. Fifty-eight state legislators attended the day's final event that evening. Last year's successful reception attracted 27 legislators. Discussion throughout the day focused on health care reform, the importance of chiropractic in the health-care system and how chiropractic can improve the health and wellness of Kansas citizens. (Have you contacted your legislators lately? E-mail [john@kansaschiro.com](mailto:john@kansaschiro.com) for help.)

## **KCA Speaks Up at Roundtable.**

Three KCA members recently joined about 30 other health care providers from around the state in a day-long open discussion of problems in the health care system in Kansas. Drs. Tobi Jeurink, Travis Oller and Steven Gould all made comments concerning insurance company payments, Medicare and patient co-pays in the session set up by the House Health and Human Services Committee in the Statehouse. The roundtable was the third held by the Committee chair, Rep. Brenda Landwehr, Wichita, to search for

solutions to cost problems in health care. Other sessions included hospitals and insurers.

## **Medicare Claims Back On.**

Another delay in resetting the physician rates for Medicare claims has now ended, with temporary rates set at current levels through March 31. Congress missed the deadline for resetting rates in January and again at the end of February, causing 1-2 week delays in claims processing. Without the Congressional rate-setting an automatic 21% rate decrease would have gone into force in January. While Congress is not willing to let the enormous rate cut go through, they are also not able to get the work done to reset rates for the rest of the year. The next crisis comes in April, when current rates will again have to be approved by Congress. You should go ahead and submit claims without further delays.

## **Bills We Are Watching.**

Senate Bill 200 – extends requirements for testing and background checks to allied health professionals. Passed the Senate last year, stuck in committee in the House. KCA does not oppose.

Senate Bill 414 – exempts transfers from the state to the Health Care Stabilization Fund from being blocked by governor's budget allotments. Passed the Senate, hearing March 11 in the House Appropriations Committee. KCA supports.

Senate Bill 473 – extends limit to 45

days from 30 for physical therapy services without a physician referral, and would drop the requirement that treatment be for the same diagnosis as an earlier referral. Stuck in the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, and not coming out. KCA opposes.

Senate Bill 500 – allows unlicensed holders of M.D., D.C., or D.O. degrees to use those designations if they do not mislead the public to think they are licensed to practice. Passed the Senate, hearing in House Committee on Health and Human Services March 9. KCA supports.

Senate Bill 547 – raises workers comp benefits for injured workers and allows selection of their own health care provider, with penalties for insurance companies failing to pay legitimate claims. In the Senate Public Health Committee, not moving. KCA supports.

### **“Chiropractic Physician” Title Remains in Force.**

The policy reversal last August by the Board of Healing Arts reinstating the use of “chiropractic physician” in Kansas remains state policy in the new year. Plans for legislation to enact the terminology into law have been postponed until at least the 2011 legislative session. KCA was able to convince the Board to keep the terminology after an 8-month lobbying and legal campaign that included preparations for possible KCA court action.

### **KCA Docs Renominated to the Board.**

In a letter to the Governor, the KCA Board of Directors has renominated for another 4-year term Dr. Terry Webb, Hutchinson, and Dr. Ray Conley, Overland Park, to the Board of Healing Arts. Both their current terms expire June 30. The term of the third DC on the Board, Dr. Gary Counselman, Topeka, will be up in June, 2011.

### **We Need Your Patients.**

(Actually, we just need their case studies to show a lack of insurance coverage for needed chiropractic care.) The KCA Insurance Relations Committee is preparing a letter of complaint to the Kansas Insurance Department outlining major infractions of the state equal access laws

when insurance carriers limit chiropractic care while allowing full access to medical treatments. In order to establish a clear and convincing argument that would support a complete remedy to the problem, the Committee needs examples of patient charts and billing documentation (with names and ID numbers blanked out) to show that a patient has been denied needed chiropractic care because of unequal policy terms. Kansas law requires that any provider licensed to provide a covered service must be accepted to provide that service.

Please submit any examples you may have of such a case to KCA, 1334 S. Topeka, Topeka, KS 66612. Questions? Call John at (785) 233-0697 or e-mail [john@kansaschiro.com](mailto:john@kansaschiro.com).

### **One Hundred Years Coming.**

KCA’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming in 2011 – and we need your ideas for the big celebration at the Fall Convention that year. So whether you were a member in 1911 or not, we need to hear from you on this!

### **KCA Dates Coming Up.**

May 1-2 – Spring Convention - Wichita  
June 26 – New Doctor Seminar – Overland Park  
October 8-10 – Fall Convention – Overland Park

Always check  
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