

PATIENT RECORDS — HOFFMAN

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One red flag that requires extra special care is a situation where a patient, especially after only one or two visits, requests their files and there is an unpaid balance outstanding. Do you have to release records for care that has not been paid for? In some states you do not, but in most, you do. Find out what the exact situation is in your jurisdiction and get it in writing. Calls

to your chiropractic regulatory board, your state association and your malpractice carrier are all good ideas, and be sure to record the advice you have been given.

Requests for personal records are likely to take on a new dimension of concern in the months and years ahead. As health care costs continue to rise, as more and more information about health, chiropractic, malpractice and consumer rights becomes available on the Internet, more organizations like Medicare and some private networks already do, encourage beneficiaries to scrutinize all bills and procedures, and report any

discrepancies to fraud and abuse units. Here, even honest mistakes can have unfortunate consequences.

The moral of the story, as it always is in record-keeping, is to maintain timely, accurate, secure files on every patient, and above all, know what the precise rules are. It may not be the most fun thing you do in your practice, but it will reward you with peace of mind every time you are questioned about your files.

STUART HOFFMAN, D.C., F.I.C.A (Hon) is president of ChiroSecure, the malpractice program endorsed by the ICA. For a no obligation quote call Dr. Hoffman at 1-866-802-4476.

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NIH GRANT

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past 12 months to \$7.6 million. Recent grant awards included a \$3.8 million center grant in July 2007 from NCCAM for a Developmental Center for the Study of Mechanisms and Effects of Chiropractic Manipulation and ADD R25.

"We are extremely gratified by the number of grant awards we have received recently, particularly the NCCAM center grants," added Dr. Choate. "This recognition from the National Institutes of Health demonstrates Palmer's leadership position in chiropractic research. We take this role very seriously, and are continually striving to improve and expand our chiropractic research efforts in ways that are directly relevant to patient care."

PRIVATE CONTRACTING

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in and serving as a Medicare provider was an obligation of citizenship, "like jury duty."

"This is an issue that will increase its profile and chiropractic should join the debate in a significant manner," said Dr. Michael Hulsebus, Chair of ICA's Medicare Committee. "As Medicare's resource pool gets stretched increasingly thin, we believe resistance to the needed changes will diminish, and private contracting can be achieved, on reasonable terms for both the patient and the provider, and also taking pressure of the Medicare program."

HISTORIC SUMMIT

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- Respect personal differences in style and substance,
- Participate openly and honestly,
- Remain true to our decisions and not make promises we can not keep,
- Respect professional differences that can exist within the chiropractic scope and practice as outlined in the ACC paradigm
- Air our differences inside this forum and not in public,
- Hold ourselves and each other to the highest standards of accountability and integrity as expected by the members and constituents we represent,
- All public communications regarding the Chiropractic Summit require mutual agreement.

Planning for regular follow-up sessions is under way, and working groups are acting on key developmental issues in order to assist the collective Summit effort to be as productive as possible, as quickly as possible.

