



CHOICE

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ICA
CHIROPRACTIC

- Educating the public
- Promoting the principle
- Adjusting the future

2008 Medicare Fee Cuts Postponed

In the closing hours of the 2007 Congressional session, the US House of Representatives and the US Senate acted on the same day to suspend for six months the pending 10 percent Medicare physician fee cuts scheduled to go into effect on January 1st. On December 19th, both Houses of Congress voted to adopt S.2499, legislation that included the six-month suspension. That legislation was signed by the President on December 29, 2007, leaving the Medicare carriers only 48 hours to revise the fee schedules before the first of the year, an impossible deadline given the complexity of the tasks related to revising fee schedules and altering billing computer software to address the 11th hour change.

Some carriers acted quickly to make the necessary amendments. Others took several weeks to implement the last-minute change in the 2008 fees schedule. "ICA has been in touch with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as well as a sampling of regional carriers all of whom told ICA that the legislation created a confused situation that would take time to resolve," said ICA Medicare Committee Chairman Dr. Michael Hulsebus. "Each regional carrier was obliged by the legislation to alter their claims processing programs and post the new fee schedules."

The fee change was inherently more problematic for the non-participating provider, since the question of what the practice should charge and collect from the patient was left uncertain. Practices that started to charge the reduced fees posted before Congress acted will perhaps be obliged to re-file those claims and address the collection of the additional portion of the restored fee level from patients. ICA urges all members to contact their regional carrier directly and follow the directions they provide on fees and billing procedures.

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Italy Scores a Victory! Decades of litigation leads to legislation

By Thomas Rigel, D.C.
Rome, Italy

December 21, 2007 was a historic day for chiropractic in Italy. On that day chiropractic scored a gigantic victory; it became legal in Italy and was recognized by the Italian Parliament as a primary health care profession. Thirty-three years after the founding of the Associazione Italiana Chiropratici (AIC) and 17 years



after the presentation of the first proposal for professional recognition, chiropractic has finally come into its own in Italy. This was a breath-taking event, and one that those of us who have been living and practicing here for many, many years will remember for the rest of our lives.

For nearly two decades the AIC has fought to get professional recognition for chiropractors, but been unsuccessful till recently when an amendment concerning chiropractic was inserted into the annual budget law. This amendment was presented by Senator Luigi Lusi from the Magherita party of the majority. With the accuracy of a skilled marksman, Senator Luigi Lusi sighted his targeted and hit dead center. He guided

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"The ICA salutes the AIC on getting professional recognition. We know the fight has been long and hard, and the ICA commends you on your determination, courage and persistence. Your efforts and success have added significantly to making chiropractic a truly global profession."

John Maltby, D.C.
ICA President

National Conference on Chiropractic in Medicare to Be Held April 24 in Washington, DC

A national conference focusing on the future of chiropractic in the federal Medicare program will be convened by the International Chiropractors Association (ICA) in Washington, DC on Thursday, April 24, 2008. The objectives of this day-long, Medicare focused forum will be to focus the attention of the chiropractic profession on this struggling but vital program, and foster a positive dialogue on how chiropractic's Medicare role can be strengthened.

Taking the place of the traditional ICA Legislative Work Day, this intensive one-day event will involve representatives of numerous chiropractic organizations, senior members of the US House and Senate, spokespeople from national seniors' organizations, and representatives of allied health care professions facing similar challenges in the Medicare program.

"By April, the Congressional legislative agenda will be all but complete and political attention will be heavily focused on the race for President in both



January 1, 2008 the following became LAW in Italy

"It is to be established within the Health Ministry, without public funding, a register for doctors of chiropractic. The inscription into said register is reserved to those who possess a doctorate degree in chiropractic or equivalent title. The graduate in chiropractic has the title of Doctor of Chiropractic and may freely exercise his competencies as a primary contact practitioner in the health care field, according to current regulation. The chiropractor may practice in or be authorized within or with structures of the National Health Care Service in the manner provided for by the established ordinance." (Translated)

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