



CHOICE

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Medicare Report Misses Key Points

ICA will continue to fight arbitrary limits to chiropractic care

The report entitled *Chiropractic Services in the Medicare Program: Payment Vulnerability Analysis*, issued June 21, 2005 by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the US Department of Health and Human Services, is not the first document produced by that office to present a negative perspective on the chiropractic portion of the massive Medicare program.

The essence of the findings presented in this 38-page report is that the majority of chiropractors are billing Medicare for "medically" unnecessary treatment. According to the report, the objective of the study was "to determine the underlying causes of, and potential ways to reduce, vulnerabilities associated with Medicare payments for chiropractic services".

The methodology was presented as follows: "...to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying causes of these vulnerabilities (maintenance care) and ways to reduce them, we selected a simple random sample of 400 Medicare services (total allowed amount = \$12,638.38) submitted by chiropractors and allowed in 2001."

The key conclusions were:

- Maintenance services were the most common type of non-covered chiropractic service that Medicare paid for in 2001.
- Supporting documentation for chiropractic services rarely met all Medicare Carriers Manual requirements.
- Carrier controls to prevent over utilization are inconsistent

ICA's Medicare Committee undertook a detailed analysis of this report and the context in which it was developed.

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

Dr. Fred Barge's last manuscript now in print

EXPLANATIONS

This book is Dr. Fred Barge's last manuscript and final contribution to chiropractic. His family felt that the time and effort Dr. Barge had put into this book should not have been in vain and decided to print it after he passed away.

In the dedication to this final work Dr. Barge writes:

"To the uninformed. To those untold masses of humanity chained to the dominant health care paradigm of allopathic medicine. May they finally see the error of simply treating disease and look to creating health instead. May they finally come to recognize the dire consequences of trying to control body physiology chemically and understand the true principles of health and the benefits of chiropractic care."

"May they too have the blessing of knowing the causes of things and share in what we chiropractically know as the 'Life Without Fear.'"

Cost per copy: **\$34.99**
plus \$5 shipping.

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SleepLogic™ and the ICA Working Together For Better Health

The International Chiropractors Association and SleepLogic, one of the nation's most innovative and respected

mattress manufacturers, are working together in a close partnership to present to the US public a sound, chiropractically designed sleep surface choice. This exciting partnership is the result of a strong desire on the part of



both organizations to play an active role in promoting healthy sleep for all consumers. SleepLogic began working with the ICA in October of 2004 to design a new line of mattresses. The official ICA endorsement began January 1, 2005.

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Parker College Becomes ICA's Newest Affiliated Educational Institution

Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas, Texas, has become an affiliate of the International Chiropractors Association (ICA). ICA's Board of Directors unanimously voted to accept Parker's application to become an affiliated college on June 28th and enthusiastically welcomed Parker College into the official ICA community.

"We look forward to an exciting period of close cooperation with Parker College and all of our affiliated educational institutions, to build a stronger, brighter future for the next generation of chiropractors," said ICA President Dr. John K. Maltby. "ICA is deeply honored by the new relationship with Parker College and appreciates and respects the expression of support by the Parker College leadership for ICA's vision for the chiropractic profession this new status represents," he said.

"Parker College of Chiropractic is honored to be accepted as an affiliate educational institution of the ICA. We look

forward to the continued collaborative efforts with the ICA and other affiliate institutions to help in the advancement of the chiropractic profession," said Dr. Fabrizio Mancini, President of Parker College and Parker Seminars.



Parker College of Chiropractic is named after its late founder, Dr. James William Parker, who was a member of the ICA for over 50 years. Parker College was chartered by the State of Texas on March 8, 1978, and the campus, located in Irving, Texas, a suburb of Dallas, officially opened on September 12, 1982. The first class of 27 stu-

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