

Iowa Chiropractic Society Proposes Consortium to Develop Coordinated Plan of Action to Benefit Chiropractic

The Iowa Chiropractic Society (ICS) has put forward an initiative to convene a profession-wide consortium of national and state member organizations, educational institutions and other appropriate professional representatives to "develop and implement a profession-wide plan of action that will result in the best possible legislative, public awareness and economic benefit for our profession." Because of a profound awareness of the need for the chiropractic profession to come together to coordinate a sound political action plan in support of unified goals for Medicare reform, ICA's Board of Directors has unanimously embraced this initiative.

The ICS initiative was prompted by the recently concluded Medicare Demonstration Project in which Medicare paid doctors of chiropractic, in a small number of locations, for any Medicare covered service they were licensed to perform with certain restrictions.

In a letter to ICA, Iowa Chiropractic Society President Dr. Wayne Zemelka and Dr. K.R. Storjohann, ICS Chiropractic Demonstration Project Committee Chairman, wrote: "We believe the long-term overall future public utilization, professional stature, economic status, political influence, chiropractic college enrollment, and many other aspects of the chiropractic profession will be highly dependent on "Congressional Action" as a result of the current CMS Chiropractic Demonstration Project. This "Project" will in large part determine the course of our profession for many decades to come here in the United States. Chiropractic will either continue to progress socially, economically, educationally and politically, or begin a slide into health care antiquity."

ICA believes that this practical and problem-solving call to action from the Iowa Chiropractic Society is worthy of support. "Not only will ICA answer the call," said ICA President Dr. John Maltby, "but we urge all organizations to do likewise since this is not only a great and daunting challenge, it is also an historic opportunity to make a profound and powerful difference in the health of millions of our aging citizens, the social and economic health of the nation and the dignity and strength of the chiropractic profession. No individual or organization should fail to answer this clarion call," Dr. Maltby said.

ICA's Medicare and Legislative Committees have always understood that

the strength and health of the chiropractic portion of the Medicare program starts with the sound management of the program in its entirety. "Cutting back on Medicare Advantage costs and raising cigarette taxes can only make a slight and temporary difference in the future of Medicare," said ICA Legislative Committee Co-Chair Dr. Michael S. McLean. "As numbers of beneficiaries rise, reaching the 60 million-plus mark, major changes will need to be made, and in this process, chiropractic must mobilize and participate in the policy process as never before, both to protect our patients and our profession, but also because chiropractic has a unique contribution to the overall resolution of this growing crisis," he said.

The Child Patient: A Matrix for Chiropractic Care

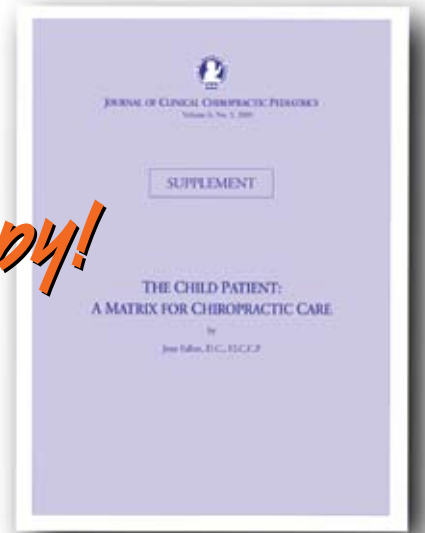
By Joan Fallon, DC, FICCP

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The Child Patient: A Matrix for Chiropractic Care is a must for all DCs caring for children, for their own use and also to give to insurance companies as well as other health care professionals. It is the first document to explain why kids, including infants, need chiropractic care and the time and frequency of care. It includes 142 references.

The *Matrix*, authored by Joan Fallon, D.C., F.I.C.C.P., is a supplement to the *Journal of Clinical Chiropractic Pediatrics*, Volume 6, No. 3 published by the ICA Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics. The document has received wide publicity and written up in several non-chiropractic publications including *Medical News Today*.

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