



NYSCA SUFFOLK COUNTY

District 7

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Members,

When I think about November, feelings of gratefulness come to mind, for family, my practice and NYSCA District 7. Why District 7? Because we are a community. Our community appreciates the support from all of our members, and offers opportunities for members to work together to improve the chiropractic experience in this great state of NY.

As you may already know, being a member of NYSCA brings with it many benefits. Did you know, for example, that you have direct access to members who are industry leaders in insurance, including no fault and workers compensation? With this, we are in a unique position, as members, to have direct access to this expertise on our District 7 Board and with our state leaders. This is something to be very grateful for – knowing you are not alone.

I continue to be grateful for my chiropractic brothers and sisters who are innately givers, sacrificing our time and energy, and even our physical bodies, to help others. As givers, I am asking you to take a moment and click on this link to make a meaningful donation to the Island Harvest food bank based in Melville. Our goal is \$1000 and I am sure we can reach that goal and even surpass it.

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/IslandHarvestFoodBank/NYSCADistrict7Collection>

Many of you have already donated and I thank you so much for your generosity!

Continued on page 2

IN PERSON MEETINGS

Radisson Hotel Hauppauge - 8 PM

November 17th

Danielle DeGiorgio, DO
OALI

Non-surgical Approach to
Orthopedic Pathology

December 15th
8:00 PM

HOLIDAY PARTY
MARIO RESTAURANT

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FREE TO NYSCA D7 MEMBERS

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FROM THE EDITOR

Thanksgiving is fast approaching and there are families that will not have a holiday meal. We have been blessed to be chiropractors and our president, Dr. Fasulo, has asked our members to step up with her Island Harvest initiative to feed the hungry in our community. Help the district exceed our fundraising goal; the link to donate is on the cover and on page 7.

Inside we have updates on HR 2654 which is the Medicare Patient Access to Chiropractic bill and other ACA updates. Your office could also become part of a PBRN studying chiropractic and back pain in 12-17-year-olds. Be a part of the scientific process. The training offered is concise and will help you to understand how you and your patients will participate and report. See page 5 and contact the school immediately to get involved. There is a poster to use in the office to help recruit patients. There is a reward for them in participating; besides getting well through chiropractic.

Pages 12 to 14 we have articles and video links from our friends at KMC University and the Paperwork Project on new codes and documentation requirements.

I have a sign-up link for a Long Island based positive thinking and self-help blogger Our Daily Fred. He calls his comment section a 'Freditorial,' so check it out.

Lastly there is a video link from LIFE on "The Effects of a Single Session Chiropractic Care on Strength, Cortical Drive and Spinal Excitability in Stroke Patients."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I am also grateful for the sponsors of this organization. A special acknowledgement to Dr. Sharma, Stand Up MRI and Orthopedic Associates of Long Island as our Gold Sponsors. All of our sponsors support our cause and that is a fantastic reason to consider referring to them.

Dr. DeGiorgio from Orthopedic Associates of Long Island will be the speaker at our next general meeting and she will be presenting information on Non-Operative Sports and Regenerative Medicine. This will include her sharing different treatment tools she uses in her office and different applications for each. She is looking forward to discussing how to collaborate and facilitate quality patient care. This will be a very special meeting and I encourage all of our members to attend.

Additional information from our insurance committee will also be on the agenda. Learn about the proposed bills in our legislature that affect each one of us and will help us be better chiropractors in the future.

We continue to make Zoom available for those members who cannot join in-person. Please contact Dr. Merckling at mercklingdc@optonline.net to request the Zoom link. However, you join, we will be happy to see you.

Finally, with the Holiday season upon us, please mark your calendars for December 15, 2021 for our Holiday party at Mario's in Hauppauge. Your fellow NYSCA chiropractors will be there to enjoy each other's company and great food.

Your President, JoAnna Fasulo, DC



A M E R I C A N
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A S S O C I A T I O N

ACA Celebrates 100th Cosponsor on Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act

Nov. 2, 2021

This week, Reps. Gregory Steube (R-Fla.), Brian Mast (R-Fla.) and Drew Ferguson (R-Ga.) joined their colleagues in supporting H.R. 2654, the Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act, bringing the total number of cosponsors of the bill to 100. Introduced in April by Rep. Brian Higgins (D-N.Y.) with 16 original cosponsors, the measure would allow beneficiary access to the full scope of current Medicare services allowed under a chiropractor's state licensure.

"For nearly 50 years, beneficiaries have been denied full access to Medicare-covered services in a chiropractic clinic," said ACA President Michele Maiers, DC, MPH, PhD. "The current statute is antiquated and needs to be modernized. I thank Congressman Higgins and the 100 cosponsors who support Medicare patients and who have supported this legislation."

The chiropractic benefit in Medicare dates back to 1972 and only covers "manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation." H.R. 2654 would allow Medicare beneficiaries access to the chiropractic profession's broad-based, non-drug approach to pain management, which includes manual manipulation of the spine and extremities, evaluation and management services, diagnostic imaging and utilization of other non-drug approaches that have become an important strategy in national efforts to stem the epidemic of prescription opioid overuse and abuse.

"The more cosponsors we have, the greater the likelihood of our success," noted ACA Legislative Committee Chair Keith Overland, DC. "I want to thank all the dedicated ACA volunteers, as well as the numerous chiropractic state associations, organizations and individual supporters from all 50 states, who have answered the bell and helped move this vital piece of legislation. But our work is not done; we need the profession to continue to garner additional cosponsors and support."

H.R. 2654 was referred to two House committees, Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce. A Senate companion bill has not yet been introduced; however, work is underway to secure introduction in that chamber.

For a full list of H.R. 2654 cosponsors, [click here](#).

For more information on the Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act, and how you can help, go to www.HR2654.org.

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER



Non-Operative Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Specializing in Regenerative Medicine, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and Concussion Management

Danielle DeGiorgio, DO, is a non-operative sports medicine physician. She is a native of Long Island, graduating from Longwood High School as a three-sport athlete. She attended Stony Brook University on a full athletic scholarship and served as captain of the women's basketball team.

After obtaining her medical degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. DeGiorgio completed an internship at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital, followed by a residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Stony Brook University Medical Center, serving as chief resident in her senior year. In addition, Dr. DeGiorgio completed training in structural acupuncture at Harvard Medical School. Following her residency, Dr. DeGiorgio went on to complete a Fellowship in Sports Medicine at Christiana Care, serving as a Fellow team physician for the University of Delaware, Delaware State University, as well as for local high school teams.

Dr. DeGiorgio is OALI's Director of Regenerative Medicine and is an Assistant Clinical Professor with the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation within the Stony Brook University School of Medicine. She is dual-board certified in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine. She is a member of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine and the American College of Sports Medicine.



Dr. Sathish Subbaiah

The goal of surgical intervention at OALI is to get patients back on their feet and enjoying an active lifestyle as soon as possible through the most minimally invasive surgeries and evidence-based medicine. With minimally invasive spine surgery (MISS), our surgeons use high-powered microscopes to operate through small incisions, minimizing trauma to the surrounding tissue. MISS allows for more precise intervention, reduced post-operative pain, faster recovery, and decreased scarring than traditional surgery. In fact, 4 out of 5 of our surgical patients are able to return home on the same day!



Dr. Morgan Chen

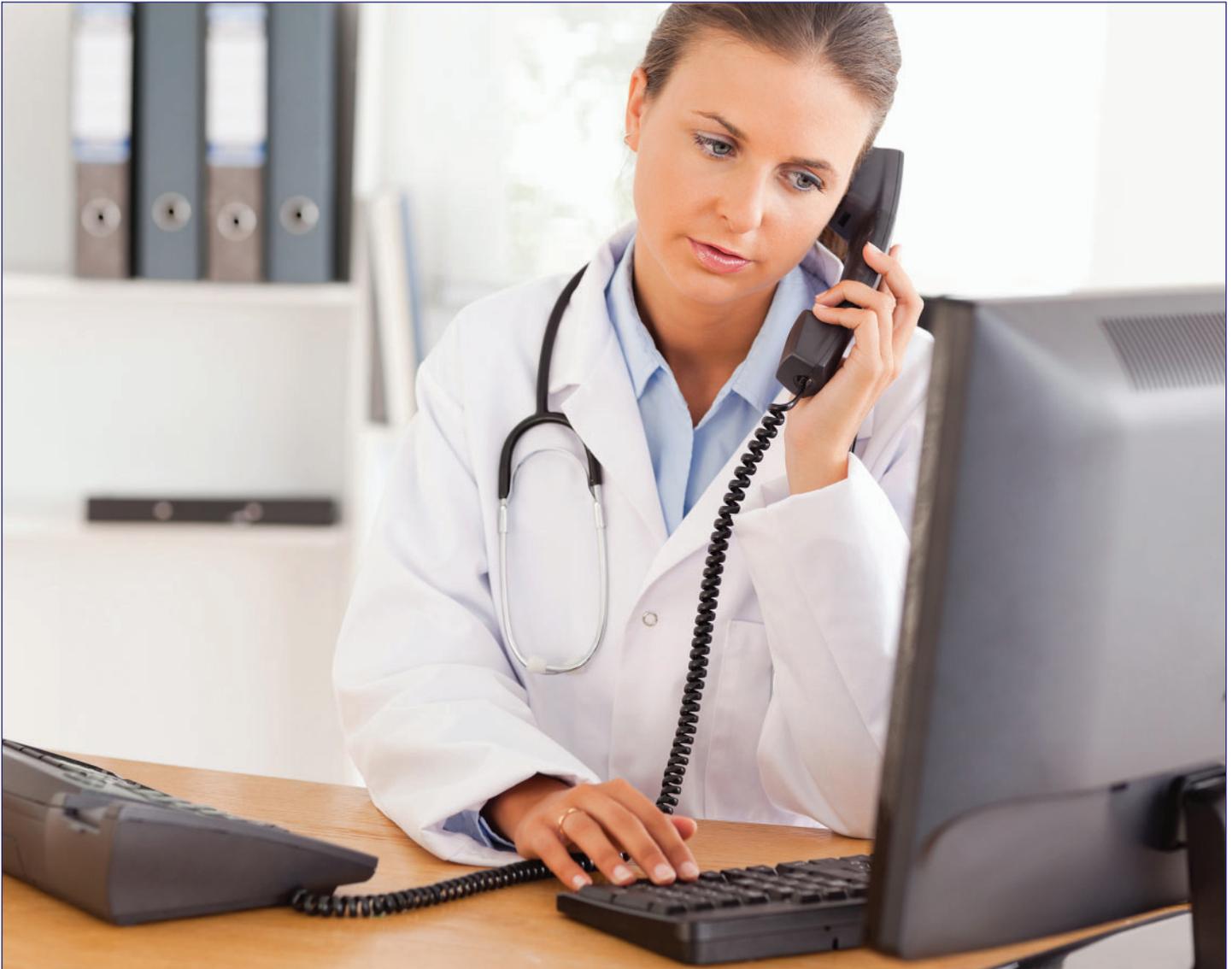


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OPINION:



COMMUNICATION RESPECT

Dr. Ronald Bernardini

It is understood that if a phone call is made to a doctor's office, that a doctor should pick up the phone and address the issue at hand. This is not what is happening in the Chiropractic community.

I have noticed that when a doctor calls another office, he is usually told that the doctor is in with a patient and can not come to the phone. Most of our office visits are not emergencies - pick up the phone. If a patient is told, "I have a doctor on the line and I will be right back in." They will not leave your practice nor walk out of your office. If they did walk out of your office, they have no respect for you, and why would you want them as a patient.

Also when your NYSCA board members call you, it is of Chiropractic importance that you pick up immediately; pick up the phone, and speak to your colleague. These salient points are respected and understood in the field of medicine.

Therefore, to get things accomplished, solve problems, and push our profession forward politically, and strengthen our Chiropractic family answer the calls in real-time. Respect for the doctor title goes further than our offices; when a doctor calls, it's important! Please respect the doctor when he calls because their time is valuable and it must be important.



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Help Our Neighbors in Need

District Food Drive benefiting Island Harvest

\$30 – will feed a family of four

Please bring a check for 30\$ made out to NYSCA D7 and we will present the total to Island Harvest from our chiropractic community. If your office wants to help in-person; Island Harvest needs helping hands to pack boxes for the needy.

ONLINE DONATIONS

Contact Dr. Fasulo for more information. 631-289-3939 • Fasulochiro@gmail.com

Vaccine Safety Monitoring Information for Healthcare Providers

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) is part of the larger vaccine safety monitoring system in the United States that helps make sure vaccines are safe and effective. This video describes everything healthcare providers need to know.



Medicare Patient Access to Chiropractic: H.R. 2654

Legislation championed by ACA to increase Medicare coverage of chiropractic services has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act (H.R. 2654) would allow Medicare beneficiaries access to the chiropractic profession’s broad-based, non-drug approach to pain management, which includes manual manipulation of the spine and extremities, evaluation and management services, diagnostic imaging and utilization of other non-drug approaches that have become an important strategy in national efforts to stem the epidemic of prescription opioid overuse and abuse.

H.R. 2654:

- Provides patient access to all Medicare-covered benefits allowable under a chiropractor’s state licensure.
- Requires that DCs complete a documentation webinar.
- Appropriately defines a Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) as a “physician” in the Medicare program.
- Is bipartisan legislation, introduced by 16 cosponsors from both political parties.

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ACA BLOG

ACA regularly posts new blog content on a variety of topics each month. In case you missed it, below is a roundup of content from last month. Make sure to visit acatoday.org/blogs regularly for new posts!

Interested in becoming a contributor? Please review ACA's editorial policy and guidelines for writers and submit your post to communications@acatoday.org.

IN THE PROFESSION

ACA Roundtable Explores the Experiences of Women Chiropractors

October 6 | Cassie LaJeunesse

Women in the chiropractic profession face a unique set of experiences and challenges. Panelists at a Sept. 30 virtual event, "ACA Women's Roundtable: Education, Leadership, Care Delivery, Patients," discussed their views on several related issues, including leadership in the profession, chiropractor demographics, and how to encourage more women to pursue a career in chiropractic. The event is the second in a series organized by the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

[READ MORE](#)

Enhancing Healthcare Education Through Integrative Collaborative Healthcare

October 20 | Jason Goodman, DC, PhD

As health care continues to evolve, having experience practicing in an integrative care environment is valuable in opening doors for doctors of chiro-

Continued on page 12

I am thankful . . .



for NYSCA because it keeps me up to date on all insurance and coding changes that take place so frequently now.

Dr. Joseph Merckling



to NYSCA for having a place to be with peers to ask questions about practice management, insurance challenges and patient issues. I also am grateful for not feeling like I am "all alone out there". Thank you NYSCA District 7!

Dr. Joanna Fasulo



for the NYSCA helping my office navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. They keep me informed of the necessary protocols and procedures and relief options.

Dr. Robin Stein



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Sathish Subbaiah, MD

Non-operative Sports Medicine



Danielle DeGiorgio, DO



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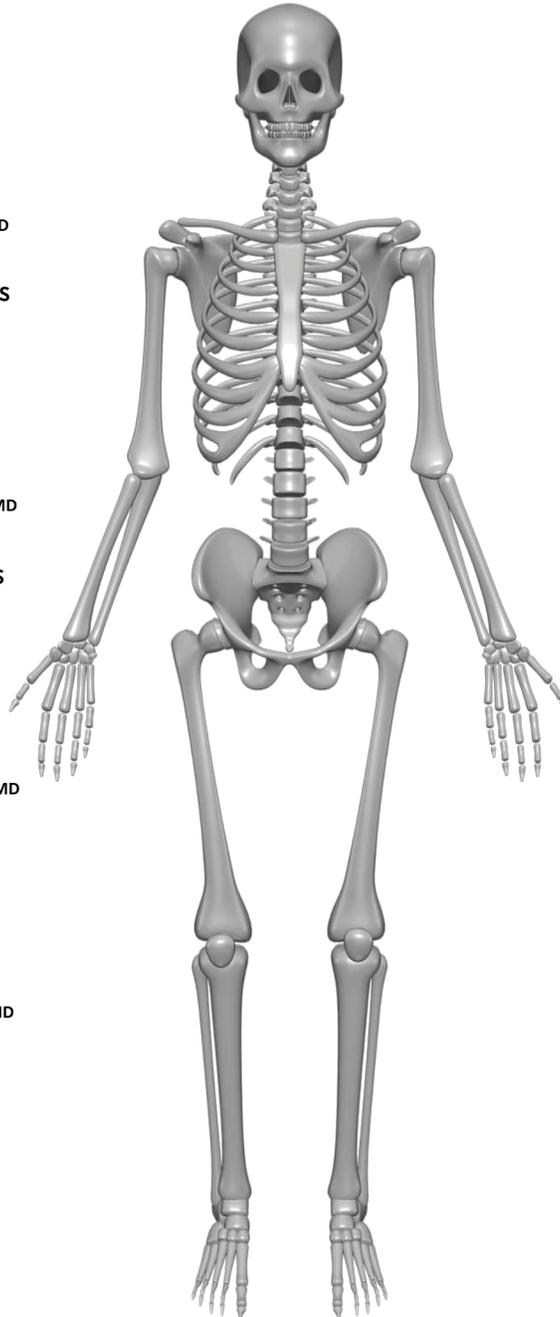
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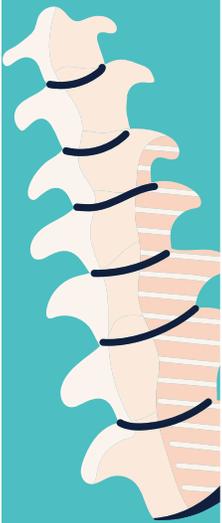
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We need chiropractors in North America to help further the understanding of **Pain in Adolescents**

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measuring the clinical course of spinal pain in adolescents



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practic just beginning their careers. Chiropractic students have more opportunities than ever to experience integrative care firsthand through unique programs established by the chiropractic colleges. In this installment on ACA Blogs, Logan University shares what it is doing to give students real-world experience working in team-based clinical environments with professionals from other health-care disciplines.

[READ MORE](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Meet Engage 2022 Presenters: Dr. James Lehman on Integrative Practice

October 27

Part of what makes ACA Engage a must-attend event is the cutting-edge education programs and discussion panels that educate attendees about important developments in health care and inspire them to achieve the best outcomes possible for their patients. Among thought leaders who will present at Engage 2022 is James Lehman, DC, who is a credentialed chiropractic specialist within a Federally Qualified Health Center as well as a board-certified chiropractic orthopedist and a specialist in neuromusculoskeletal medicine. Dr. Lehman will emphasize the importance of interprofessional collaboration during a panel discussion about integrative practice. Learn more in this ACA Blogs post.

[READ MORE](#)

December 15th
8:00 PM
HOLIDAY PARTY
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THIS EVENT IS
FREE TO NYSCA D7 MEMBERS

<https://www.chiropracticpaperwork.com/october-2021>

SEE HOW YOUR DOCUMENTATION STACKS UP THROUGH AN AUDITOR'S EYES

Dr. Colleen Auchenbach



Ever wonder why an insurance company wants to see your documentation but not that of the doctor down the street? For years, third-party payers, with Medicare taking the lead, have been telling chiropractors to step up their documentation, but a high number of documentation reviews continue to fail. Key components are often missing in chiropractic documentation resulting in requests for money to be paid back. But why do payers request records in the first place? What triggers them to want to take a deeper dive into what a practice is billing?

THOSE MOST AT RISK ARE THE OUTLIERS

Those whose billing patterns lie outside of industry norms. You might be an outlier if you use certain billing codes too often or for too long. You might be an outlier if you adjust the full spine and bill for that adjustment rather than for what was documented as medically necessary. You might be an outlier for billing out therapy services that closely approximate an adjustment, as well as using certain modifiers attached to those therapy codes. Even if you are doing everything by the book, you may still fall into the outlier category due to the nature of your technique. However, it does not automatically mean you are doing anything incorrectly. If you have properly documented and coded the services billed, you have nothing to worry about in the event of a records request.

Understand how your choices for coding and documentation work together to tell a story. That story should mirror the patient's presentation, the doctor's findings, and the services provided. The billing codes relay this information to payers in their language. If your documentation does not back up the billing code story, you have not justified your right to payment by the patient's insurance carrier. And they are well within their rights to ask for that money back. It's that simple.

Gone are the days when doctors could toss CMS-1500 forms into the air and expect them to rain money. In the age of electronic health care records, most doctors haven't even seen a 1500 claim form. Yet, they have signed it every time the office sends a bill. That signature verifies that the services billed were performed and documented in the patient record. There must be a connection between the patient complaint, the treatment, and the billing codes on that claim form. Become a better storyteller with proper documentation and coding to accurately reflect why you billed what you billed, and then it won't matter if your records are requested.



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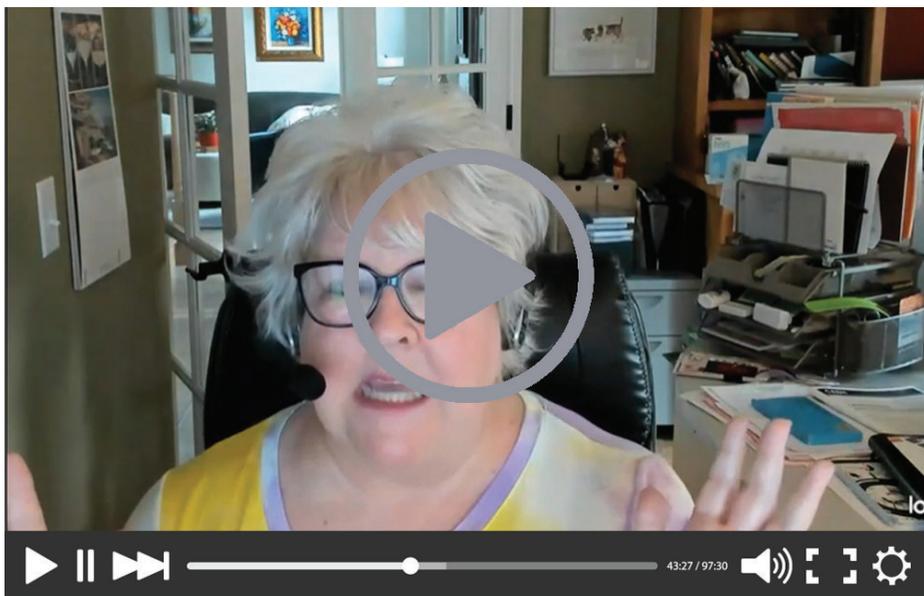
Hot Topics from the KMC University Helpdesk | October 27, 2021

Implementing security safeguards can be a challenge. Understanding all the HIPAA rules can be even more difficult. No matter how difficult, it is the provider's responsibility to make every effort to protect patient data. All the efforts must be supported by written policy and procedure. The question is whether or not HIPAA is specific about anti-malware or anti-virus software. We address this topic in the following Help Desk video.



Hot Topics from the KMC University Helpdesk | October 6, 2021

As usually happens, once the annual coding update occurs on October 1, more clarifications and myriad questions continue to circle. Now that our members have been using the codes, we have unraveled several other things that are important based on questions to our Helpdesk. Listen and KMC explains what we're finding, and finally... which new lower back pain code should you use... if any at all!

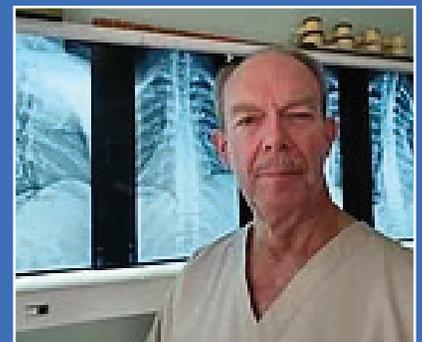


If you are in Atlanta for a seminar make sure to go see the annual Lights of Life.

Marietta, Georgia, November 2, 2021 – Beginning on Thanksgiving night, Life University (Life U) will once again greet thousands of visitors to its Marietta campus for Lights of LIFE. Life U gives thanks to the local community, as well as those who travel from other states, who have been loyally returning to campus many of the past 32 years. The University also welcomes all newcomers to enjoy a spectacular holiday light show and festivities. Lights of LIFE has grown to be one of the most popular light shows in the Southeast, attracting nearly half a million spectators from the surrounding region.

The 32nd Annual Lights of LIFE begins on Thursday, November 25, 2021, and it runs through Friday, December 31. The Lights of LIFE is one of the most affordable holiday lights show in the Atlanta Metro area (\$10 per car or \$20 per bus) and showcases more than one million LED bulbs. This event is a labor of love for Life University and a community outreach during the holiday season. Monies charged are used to pay the electricity bill and other expenses incurred from this event, with no profit to the University.

**Please Keep
Dr. Jerry Bertuch
in your Thoughts
and Prayers**



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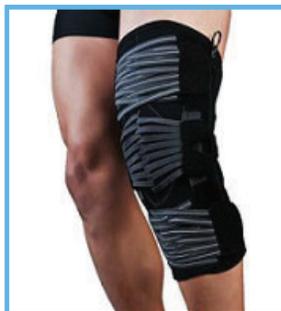
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Our Daily Fred

A daily email for your personal development, empowerment, and amusement

Fred Ford LifeSuccess Consultant Newsletter

**Today's thoughts are taken from
"The Science of Being Great" by Wallace Wattles**

So long as you hold your thought and your faith right all must go well. Nothing can be wrong but your own personal attitude, and that will not be wrong if you trust and are not afraid.

Freditorial:

In seminars, when I explain to participants that success is an attitudinal thing, my statement is sometimes met with a roll of the eyes. From childhood, people are warned about having a bad attitude. But within the context of success—that is, achieving a goal through the process of conscious creation—it helps to operate with this definition of attitude: Attitude is the composite of three things: your thoughts, feelings, and actions.

The change of attitude makes all the difference. Every creation begins as an image, a thought held in mind with the faith and purpose to bring that image into your physical world. When you create in mind a worthy ideal, something that is worth exchanging the hours of your day to pursue, you then involve your feelings, getting emotionally involved and falling in love with the image daily. And lastly, your actions must harmonize with the image and you need to take IMMEDIATE action when inspiration arrives. As Wattles points out in today's excerpt: nothing can be wrong but your own personal attitude. Improve your attitude and express some gratitude! THAT's the path to success!

[JOIN DAILY FRED](#)

**INTERESTING
TOPIC**

A COURSE ON THE FEDERALIST PAPERS

[CLICK HERE](#)



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To place an ad or for information contact the Newsletter Editor.

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS: High resolution, 4 color PDF,
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Thank you for your support of the Chiropractic Profession and NYSCA
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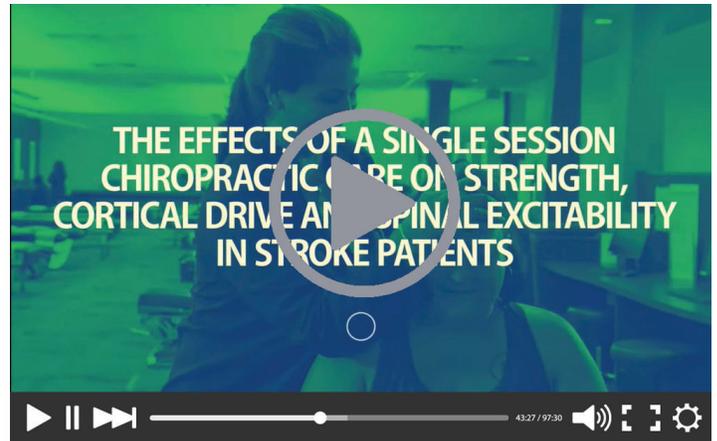
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CCR RESEARCH VIDEO SERIES UPDATE #9

In the 2021 Spring Quarter, the Dr. Sid E. Williams Center for
Chiropractic Research (CCR) launched a new research video
series that provides quick overviews of research published in
the chiropractic profession. The articles have been selected and
prepared by our Life University research scholarship students.

The video below is on the study titled "The Effects of a Single
Session Chiropractic Care on Strength, Cortical Drive and Spinal
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Contact Information

Last Name:	First Name:	MI:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Business Address:		County:	
City:	State:	Zip:	
Office Phone:	Office Fax:	Email:	
Referred to NYSCA by:		All fields required unless otherwise specified.	

Education Information

Degree(s):	
Chiropractic College:	Year Graduated:
NY Chiropractic License Number:	Date of Issuance: (MM/DD/YYYY):

Personal Information

Date of Birth:	Home Phone (opt):	Mobile Phone (opt):
Home Address:		County:
City:	State:	Zip:

Membership Categories

Dues

Regular Membership	Full Year or EZPay*
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st Year Licentiate – up to 2 years from date of licensure	\$120 or \$10/month
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Year Licentiate – up to 3 years from date of licensure	\$240 or \$20/month
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd Year Licentiate – up to 4 years from date of licensure	\$360 or \$30/month
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 th Year Licentiate – up to 5 years from date of licensure	\$480 or \$40/month
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 th Year Licentiate – Greater than 5 years from date of licensure	\$600 or \$50/month
★ New Member Special ★	
One-time offer applicable to Regular Membership only when year is PAID IN FULL. Eligibility subject to verification. Subsequent year's dues payable at usual rate. Cannot be combined with other discounts	25% off
<input type="checkbox"/> Part-time, practicing 20 hours or fewer per week Discount applicable to Regular Membership only. A certification of working hours, signed by a NYSCA district officer, must be submitted to the administrative office; Cannot be combined with other discounts	50% off
Associate Membership – Include name of sponsoring NYSCA Member: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 st Year Licentiate – up to 2 years from date of licensure	\$60 or \$5/month
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 nd Year Licentiate – up to 3 years from date of licensure	\$120 or \$10/month
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 rd Year Licentiate – up to 4 years from date of licensure	\$180 or \$15/month
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 th Year Licentiate – up to 5 years from date of licensure	\$240 or \$20/month
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 th Year Licentiate – Greater than 5 years from date of licensure	\$300 or \$25/month

Affiliate Membership[†] – must be licensed to practice chiropractic in New York

<input type="checkbox"/> a full-time staff member in residence at a chiropractic or other accredited university, college, school, or institution; or	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> a full-time employee of any recognized governmental agency; or	
<input type="checkbox"/> a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty; or	
<input type="checkbox"/> not in active chiropractic practice AND is employed full-time as supplier/vendor of chiropractic products and services, or other practice equipment, in service to members of the chiropractic professional field; or	
<input type="checkbox"/> practicing exclusively in a state or jurisdiction other than New York State	

[†]out-of-state affiliate members may neither vote in NYSCA elections nor hold office

*Membership Dues – EZPay (Monthly debit from credit card)

Cardholder understands and agrees that by opting into automatic billing his/her card will be charged on a monthly basis and will automatically renew on membership anniversary date. Renewal will be at current membership type associated with account. Monthly membership is not eligible for cancellation for the first 12 months.

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Check here if you do **NOT** want 7% of your dues monies earmarked for NYCPAC. Refusal to contribute will not affect your membership rights.

I fully understand and agree that upon acceptance of my application, I shall abide by the certificate of incorporation of the NYSCA, its Bylaws, Canon of Ethics, all rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors and House of Delegates, and the laws of the State of New York, the Board of Regents, and the State Education Department. I further understand that the NYSCA regularly communicates with its members by electronic means and therefore permit NYSCA to send me communications and advertisements (regarding upcoming events, etc.) via fax/email.

Signature:	
For Office Use Only	Date Received: District Assigned: