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What's Inside President's Message Member Spotlight Insurance Updates Chiropractic in the News NYSCA E-News Education and Training Legislation Updates D7 Photo Gallery

Calendar of Events

Wed., Mar. 20 8:00 PM Monthly Meeting - Radisson Hotel The Patriot Group The Danger of Waiving Patient Cost Share Responsibility

Apr. 12-14 Spring Convention

Wed., Apr. 17 8:00 PM Monthly Meeting - Radisson Hotel D7 Board Members Extraordinary Cases on an Ordinary Day

Wed., May 15 8:00 PM 2nd Annual Gold Sponsor Event The View in Oakdale 7:00 - 10:00 PM NYSCA MEMBERS ONLY Food and Cocktails

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues-

Thank you for taking a moment out of your busy day to read our D7 monthly newsletter.

Personally, it's been quite a month for me. Since Rimon Law firm spoke at our January meeting, I invited them to my office for a voluntary audit of my employment records. She found that while I was doing many things correctly, my I-9s were not up to par. She identified missing information in my employee records and outdated posters. I share this

so you can think about your practice's employee management hygiene. If left unattended and the Dept of Labor shows up, you can be fined.

At our March monthly meeting, Thomas Force, founder of The Patriot Group Law Firm, will be sharing guidelines on how to legally collect cash fees from cash patients. Take a moment to read his bio; it is super impressive As a state and federally licensed attorney in both New Jersey and New York, Mr. Force has over 30 years of experience in the healthcare and insurance industries! We are lucky to have him at our next district meeting. You do not want to miss this.

With Spring inching closer, that can only mean one thing - it is time for the NYSCA Spring Convention! Mark your calendar for April 12-14 at Mohegan Sun. Did you know you can get all your yearly CE Credits in one weekend while enjoying time with our vendors and amazing colleagues? Catch up with old friends and enjoy the educational seminars, workshops, and luncheon. I hope to see you there!

We are also excited to share that more fun is on the way! Remember last year's super successful and fun night at the Gold Sponsor Event? Well, save the date because it's back! This year's big bash is on May 15, at The View in Oakdale from 7-10pm. We'll update you on the details as we get closer, but for now add it to your calendar. Great food, great drinks and networking with sponsors, medical doctors, colleagues, and friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

Lastly, I have some exciting news. We are entering a new age and have recently implemented a Text Reminder system. Now, you can more easily stay in the know about D7 events and don't have to miss a thing!

I hope to see you on March 20th,

Stay well,

JoAnna Fasulo DC





Dr. Joe Merckling

Be your old self again! It's time to start living! That's at the heart of what drives Joe Merckling, this month's Member Spotlight.

If you go back to the beginning, Joe was first inspired to be a chiropractor at the young age of 12, after being in a car accident. He had been experiencing chronic migraines and found no relief from the many types of doctors that he sought help from. Not one had a solution to his headaches. Finally, he was brought to a chiropractor, Dr Skurka on Long Island who was instrumental in Joe's recovery and the force behind Joe's pursuit of chiropractic as a career.

Joe attended New York Chiropractic College where he graduated Magna Cum Laude and has been a chiropractor for 21 years. He opened Merckling Chiropractic in 2006 in Bellport. He stays motivated by the look on his patients' faces when they have experienced the benefits of chiropractic care and Joe can't pick one most interesting patient case to share because he has had so many interesting patients and personal relationships during their years in practice!

A NYSCA member since 2006, Joe has served many roles from District State Delegate, Secretary to Vice president to President. He continues to play an active role in furthering chiropractic for all members of NYSCA and is currently the Regional Director, Unity Committee Chairman while also serving on the Insurance and Workers Compensation committees. How does he fit it all in? Well, he has found his involvement within NYSCA to be invaluable to his practice's success by gifting him a wealth of colleagues with years of experience that he can tap into to help with anything that comes up in practice. In fact, Joe doesn't know how other DCs survive without NYSCA.

Beyond Amanda, Joe's wife who is also a chiropractor, future Merckling chiropractors include Joe and Amanda's four children: Annabelle (10), Scarlett (9), Juliette (7) and Austin (4). We look forward to seeing how the chiropractic passion rubs off on them!

UP TO SPEED ON INSURANCE

ATTENTION NORTHWELL DIRECT PROVIDERS: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024

CORRECTION TO HEALTHCOMP (NORTHWELL DIRECT) CHIROPRACTIC COPAYS: CHIROPRACTIC COPAYS HAVE BEEN LOWERED TO \$20 (RETROACTIVE TO 1/1/24)

The Third Party Administrator (TPA) is changing from Brighton Health Plan Solutions to HealthComp.

- HEALTHCOMP PAYER ID: 36149
- HEALTHCOMP CLAIMS ADDRESS: PO BOX 2920, MILWAUKEE, WI 53201-2920
- PROVIDER SERVICES: 866-316-8438



EMBLEM HEALTH PROVIDER NETWORK CHANGE

For dates of service beginning 1/1/24, the provision of physical therapy, occupational therapy and CHIROPRACTIC CARE for EmblemHealth members will transition from Palladian to EmblemHealth. Preauthorizations and referrals will NO longer be required. Claims for these services should be submitted to EmblemHealth or the managing entity as listed on the member's ID card. Claims contacts are also listed in the Directory chapter of the Provider Manual.

INFORMATION TAKEN FROM PALLADIAN HEALTH UM PORTAL

READ MORE

TAXONOMY CODES AND BILL SUBMISSIONS

Please be aware that taxonomy codes are now needed for submission to Federal Work Comp and Emblem Medicaid. On the 1500 form it would go in box 24j or 33b. All Chiropractors have the same taxonomy # 111N00000X.

PRIME HEALTH

I am so thankful for my Suffolk County Chiropractic Colleagues and Friends for giving me a very deep understanding whether to participate with Prime Health. I had reached out to several Suffolk County Chiropractors when I received several emails and snail mail letters from Prime Health to become a participating provider, and as you may know trying to decide to become a participating provider can be time consuming and daunting.

After talking to several of my colleagues and gathering all the great information they provided, which made me make the best decision concerning whether to participate or not participate with Prime Health.

Always Grateful To My Chiropractic Colleges

Jeffrey Edward Poplarski D.C., LLC

Work Comp Corner

TIMELINESS OF LEVEL 3 PAR REVIEWS IS IMPROVING

Since launching the first, limited release of OnBoard in May 2022, the Board has reduced the backlog of level three prior authorization request (PAR) reviews from over 8,000 down to zero!

Over the past year and a half, the Board has been steadily working to reduce the level three PAR review backlog – using data to identify problem areas, implementing new processes, and adjusting staff resources.

MORE INFO

PROVIDER DELEGATE PAR SUBMISSION/ ESCALATION-NOW LIVE

MORE INFO

SPECIFIC HP1 DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

MORE INFO

NEW ENHANCED SECURITY FOR ACCESSING ONBOARD BEGINNING 3/21/24

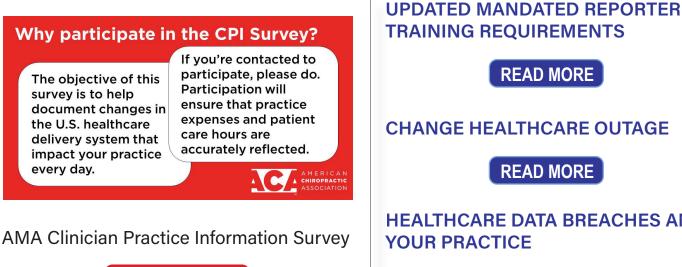
MORE INFO

CHIROPRACTIC IN THE NEWS:

NEW STUDY REVEALS SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN LUMBAR SPINE **REOPERATION WITH CHIROPRACTIC SPINAL MANIPULATION**

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NYSCA E-NEWS - The latest news for your practice today







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EDUCATION AND TRAINNG



CHIROPRACTIC LEGISLATION IN THE WORKS



NEW YORK STATE CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

NYSCA Lobbying Center

- Scope Modernization Bill A4150 (O'Donnell) | S6047 (Goundares)
- The Title VIII Coalition Partnership Bill A715 (Peoples-Stokes) | S5581 (Scarcella-Spanton)
- Retrospective Audit Look Back Bill A7590 (Lavine) | S7076 (Scarcella-Spanton)

2024 Legislative Update

The 2024 legislative session began on January 3, 2024. As this is the second year of the two year legislative cycle, the bill numbers and sponsors will remain the same. The legislative committee has continued to work on the legislative priorities for NYSCA in the off session and is continuing to push our legislative priorities in this new session.

As always, the scope modernization bill remains our number one legislative priority. The Assembly Bill number is A4150, sponsored by Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell, and in the Senate, the bill is S6047, sponsored by Senator Andrew Goundares. Our lobbyist, Amy Kellogg, has been hard at work meeting with our sponsors and relevant committee chairs to further their understanding of the necessity of the bill and to discuss roadblocks and opposition to passage. To that end, we have received and responded to concerns raised by other providers who have questions about our scope of practice bill draft. We are in the process of meeting with these groups and other stakeholder groups.

Another legislative priority remains the coalition partnership bill. This bill will allow a wide range of healthcare professionals to form partnerships with each other, and with medical doctors, should they so choose. Our Assembly bill sponsor remains Assemblymember Crystal People-Stokes, and the bill number is A715. In the Senate, the bill number is S5581 sponsored by Assemblymember Jessica Scarcella-Spanton.



A M E R I C A N CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION



Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act

The Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act (H.R. 1610 / S. 799) will 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.

READ MORE

READ MORE

THE PATRIOT GROUP

MARCH SPEAKER BIO

Thomas J. Force, Esq. Founder & President

Thomas J. Force is an attorney with significant experience in the healthcare and insurance industries. Mr. Force's background as a former U.S. Marine, Wall Street insurance litigator, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, and CEO of a revenue cycle company showcases a diverse and extensive career.

His expertise in healthcare revenue collection techniques, appeal strategies, and healthcare compliance makes him a valuable resource in the field. Additionally, his role on the Advisory Board at Hunter Business School, involvement with medical billing and coding students, and frequent speaking engagements at medical associations and healthcare organizations highlight his commitment to education and sharing knowledge in the industry.

Mr. Force focuses on a range of topics, including Effective Out-of-Network Work Flow, Successful Appeals Drafting, The Dangers of Waiving Patient Cost Share Responsibility, The No Surprise Act, and The Federal Anti-Kickback, Stark, False Claim Act, and HIPAA. In Short, Mr. Force has a comprehensive understanding of legal and compliance issues within the healthcare sector. His focus is protecting and defending the healthcare provider, and assisting with the generation of revenue for medical practices.



Outrageous Profit Margins: The Truth Behind Healthcare Premium Hikes

We've just uncovered some staggering figures that shed light on why healthcare premiums are soaring, and the results are nothing short of infuriating. The latest earnings reports from major payers reveal eye-watering profits that defy logic and fairness.

Take a look at the top earners of 2023:

- 1. UnitedHealth Group: \$22.4 billion
- 2. CVS Health: \$8.3 billion
- 3. Elevance Health: \$6 billion
- 4. Cigna Group: \$5.2 billion
- 5. Centene: \$2.7 billion
- 6. Humana: \$2.5 billion

These numbers are simply mind-boggling, especially when we consider the unjustified premium hikes proposed by carriers like Aetna, which claims it needs to raise rates by over 15%. How can they justify such increases when their profits are skyrocketing?

It's time to demand transparency and accountability from these giant corporations. We refuse to accept inflated premiums while insurers rake in billions in profits.

Stay informed, stay empowered.

For more updates and insights, feel free to reach out.

Best regards,

Thomas J. Force, Esq. Website: www.patriotcompli.com

Meet & Greet Cocktail Party COMPLIMENTARY FOR D7 MEMBERS

May 15th 7:00 pm -10:00 pm

The View in Oakdale

Members meet your colleagues and the Gold Sponsors of our district, including referring Orthopedic and Neurosurgeons from:

> NeuroCare Long Island NSPC Brain and Spine Surgery Orthopedic Associates of Long Island Spine Pain Solutions



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Left-Right: Dr. Subbaiah, MD (OALI), Melissa Lannert (DJO Global), Dr. George Rulli, DC, Dr. Amit Sharma, MD (Spine Pain Solutions)





Gold Sponsor Meet & Greet at Stella Trattoria March 15, 2023



David Wallman, DC won the raffle! Did you know that Dr. Wallman is a 3rd generation chiropractor?



Daniel Picard, DC and Wendy (Spine Pain Solutions)





Paul Giambo, DC and Dominic Estevez, DC



David Wallman, DC; Rousseau, Reginald MD Solutions) (Spine Pain



Amit Sharma, MD (Spine Pain Solutions) and Phil Facquet, DC

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John A. Grant, M.D. Pediatric Neurosurgery Neurovascular Neurosurgery Brain Tumors



Paolo A. Bolognese, M.D. Chiari I Malformation Syringomyelia



<u>Robert N. Holtzman, M.D.</u> General Neurosurgery Spine Surgery

Neuropsychology



<u>Gad Klein, Ph.D.</u> Neuropsychology

Neuro-Oncology



<u>Jai Grewal, M.D.</u> Neuro-Oncology



<u>William J. Sonstein, M.D.</u> Spine Surgery

Artem Y. Vaynman, M.D.

Spine Surgery





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