

### What's Inside

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### **Calendar of Events**

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 7:00 PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gold Sponsor Event The View in Oakdale 7:00 - 10:00 PM NYSCA MEMBERS ONLY Food and Cocktails

Wed., June 19 8:00 PM Monthly Meeting - Radisson Hotel TBA

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# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

# Member Spotlight



Dear Colleagues,

Wow, Q1 '24 is in the books and I hope your practice is off to a great start!

As you know, we are relentless in keeping you up to date on the latest to ensure you are well-equipped to manage and grow your practices. To that end, those who joined our last general meeting were amazed by Thomas Force, from Patriot Group, as he shared "The Dangers of Waiving Copayments."

It certainly was eye opening! He shared many examples where insurance carriers like Cigna, Aetna and UHC, asked providers to return millions of dollars! Mr. Force negotiates with carriers to significantly reduce or avoid the request for a refund and teaches providers how to work within the insurance system legally to avoid future problems. At our meeting, Mr. Force explained how providers can legally waive copayments and what is definitely illegal. If you missed this meeting, you might want to reach out directly and learn more about how to protect your income.

We are kicking Spring time off with a bang! Let's start with the NYSCA Convention being held at Mohegan Sun April 12-14. Yes you can earn credits. Yes, you will learn something new. And, yes, you will have a great time with colleagues and friends!

Next, for this month's general, meeting, on April 17, we are mixing it up a bit. We all have success stories and tips and we will use this meeting to be sharing our own stories of what chiropractic success looks like within our practices and we are calling it "Extraordinary Cases in an Ordinary Day". We are very excited to hear about your extraordinary cases and to learn from you and others who join.

So much to be grateful for as we shift into Spring! I hope you are winning in your practices' with the insights available to you through NYSCA, District 7, our sponsors and our guest speakers. All of these touchpoints are here to provide us with the tools we need to continue to grow our practices smartly!

See you at Mohegan!

Yours in Health,

JoAnna Fasulo DC



#### Dr. George Rulli

Sometimes the best things in life come in the most unexpected ways. I was in undergraduate college in a pre-med program at West Virginia and during the summers I volunteered at the VA hospital in Northport. That experience, while rewarding, was also depressing. I met some amazing men and women who had suffered both physical and emotional traumas that none of us would ever want to experience. Back in the day these Veterans received terrible care and I found it depressing to be in a hospital setting. My dad knew a Chiropractor, and back then chiropractors were considered quacks by many. I met with him, he was the happiest guy I ever met. He loved what he did and made a good living. At that moment I decided, "I'm going to be a Chiropractor". That was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

After undergraduate school, I planned on attending Palmer College, in Davenport Iowa. But the twists and turns of life wouldn't make that so easy either. You see, I met this girl in October. Man, I fell head over heels for her and Jayne and I were married 7 months later and moved to Iowa together. Joseph, our 1 and only child, was born 3 years later. 42 years later we are still married and have 3 beautiful grandchildren that are the light of our lives living in East Setauket.

I have been in practice for 39 years and still love it. I can still remember my very 1st year in practice. One of my patient's sisters had just had a child that had severe torticollis. The baby was six weeks old, and her doctors wanted to cut some of the cervical musculature because the baby's head was becoming deformed from the severe spasm. She decided to bring baby in - yikes I was scared! Well, about 5 treatments later the baby was doing amazing. The pediatrician called me and asked what I did, boy that felt good. To this day, 39 years later, that entire family are still patients - about 20 of them, and that child is now a beautiful woman with children of her own.

These days my wife and I love traveling to Italy. All my grandparents were born there and two of my wife's grandparents were also born there. We love spending time in the villages they lived in. God willing, I have about 2 years left in me at which point you will find me on the golf course or a little village outside Palermo smoking a cigar and drinking a little vino.

# **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

### CHANGES

### 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

### 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.

### UPDATE ON NORTHWELL HEALTH EMPLOYEE PLAN CLAIMS PAYMENT DELAYS

Dear Providers,

We are writing to provide an update on claims payments related to the Northwell Health Employee Plan and want to acknowledge the delays in payment that have occurred over the last three months. As you know, the Northwell Health Employee Plan transitioned to a new third-party administrator, HealthComp, effective January 1, 2024. As with any transition, but certainly one of this magnitude, we have been working diligently to ensure that all provider claims are paid correctly, which we view as an important priority. This has resulted in extended reviews and longer than expected processing times. However, we are happy to report that all efforts are being directed to ensure that payments are being expedited over the next two weeks.



# Work Comp Corner

PROVIDER DELEGATE PAR SUBMISSION/ ESCALATION-NOW LIVE

### **MORE INFO**

SPECIFIC HP1 DOCUMENTATION GUIDELINES

### **MORE INFO**

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### **MORE INFO**

### ATTENTION NEW WORKERS COMPENSATION PROVDIERS-NEW HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

The Workers' Compensation Board (Board) is excited to announce a new, one-stop-shop for health care providers outlining what they need to know about navigating the New York State workers' compensation system.

The new What Providers Need to Know section of the Board's website walks health care providers through

### **MORE INFO**

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

### Why participate in the CPI Survey?

The objective of this survey is to help document changes in the U.S. healthcare delivery system that impact your practice every day. If you're contacted to participate, please do. Participation will ensure that practice expenses and patient care hours are accurately reflected.



AMA Clinician Practice Information Survey

SURVEY

### **CHANGE HEALTHCARE OUTAGE**

### **READ MORE**

HEALTHCARE DATA BREACHES AND YOUR PRACTICE

**READ MORE** 

### UPDATE ON NYSED PRACTICE ALERT REGARDING THE USE OF DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND BY CHIROPRACTORS

The NYSCA would like to flag a recent practice alert that was issued by the New York State Board of Chiropractic that you should have all received in your email. We know that you get a lot of email, but this was an important practice alert, and we wanted to make sure you received it and understand the context for the alert.



### PATIENT REFERRAL SERVICES

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We can send 20 new patients your way each month, and you pay only when they show up. There are no monthly retainers, no initial set-up fees, and no bait-and-switch tactics. Possibly interested? Reply with "yes" and I'll get back to you on how this can help your practice.



### **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.





### Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act

Legislation championed by ACA to increase Medicare coverage of chiropractic services is attracting cosponsors faster than ever in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

"The Bipartisan and Bicameral Legislation Ensures Medicare Patients have Full Access to Chiropractic Care."

**Initial Cosponsor Announcement** 

**ACA Announcement** 

# Contact Your Representatives and Senators!

House: H.R. 1610

Senate: S. 799

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# **SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT**



# Non-Fusion Alternative for Treating Adjacent Segment Disease

By XAVIER P. J. GAUDIN, D.O., Spine Surgery General Neurosurgery

This is a 42-year-old otherwise healthy male who presented electively with progressively worsening neck pain radiating down the left arm, with paresthesia in the first three digits. He had a previous C6-7 anterior cervical discectomy and fusion (ACDF) two years prior, from which he recovered well. He was referred to Dr. Xavier Gaudin for a neurosurgical spine evaluation. An MRI cervical spine was obtained, which demonstrated C5-6 adjacent segment degenerative disease with a large disc extrusion resulting in severe left lateral recess and foraminal stenosis (Figure 1).

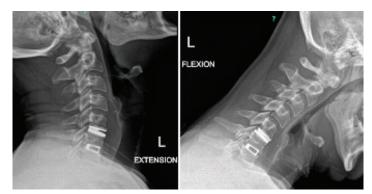
He had no neurologic deficits on exam, and therefore was started on a trial of multidisciplinary and multimodal conservative management. This included non-opioid pharmacologic regiment, lifestyle modification, physiotherapy, chiropractic, and epidural steroid injection. Despite these conservative measures, his symptoms remained severe and debilitating, and therefore surgical options were discussed. He underwent an uneventful C5-6 anterior artificial disc replacement. Postoperatively, his neck and radicular arm pain had fully resolved. Imaging demonstrated maintained physiologic flexion and extension of the cervical spine (Figure 2). This motion- preserving surgery reduces the adjacent degeneration process, and the need for further surgeries down the line.

Artificial cervical disc replacement, also known as total disc replacement or arthroplasty, allows for preservation of spinal range of motions. This non-fusion alternative reduces the biomechanical stress on the adjacent segments of the spine, which decreases the rate of physiologic degeneration cascade. The prevalence of adjacent segment degeneration after a spinal fusion is about 15%. In addition, artificial disc replacement does not require postoperative collar immobilization, thereby allowing for the patient to return to work and their usual activities sooner than a fusion. It may also be a better option for patients who are at risk of fusion failure (i.e. pseudoarthrosis), such as diabetics and nicotine users. While the current FDA guidelines and indications for artificial cervical disc replacement are limited, there are several off-label uses that are well supported in the literature. Under the care of a complex spine pro- fessional, artificial disc replacement can be utilized to treat adjacent segment disease, multilevel disease (greater than 2 segments), pseudoarthrosis, and even reversal of previous spinal fusion.



#### FIGURE 1:

Preoperative MRI demonstrating C5-6 disc herniation with stenosis, adjacent to the previous C6-7 ACDF



#### FIGURE 2:

Postoperative dynamic xrays; note the differences in range of motions between the artificial disc at C5-6 and the previous fusion at C6-7.

# Meet & Greet Cocktail Party

# May 15<sup>th</sup> 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

A Special Thank You to our Event Sponsors Elite Medical and Zwanger-Pesiri

RSVP to George Rulli at 631-379-0276 I drgrdc@aol.com

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# March Meeting THE DANGER OF WAIVING PATIENT COST SHARE RESPONSIBILITY

The Patriot Group, Thomas J. Force, Esq



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



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

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Gad Klein, Ph.D. Neuropsychology

#### **Neuro-Oncology**



Jai Grewal, M.D. Neuro-Oncology





William J. Sonstein. M.D. Spine Surgery

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Daniel M. Birk, M.D. Spine Surgery



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