

STELLAR GOOD NEWS

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Read previous issues of Stellar Good News on the resources page of our website!

New Multi-Column Appointment Program

We've added a new appointment scheduling program, available from

Appointments/Appointment Book (Room Columns). This appointment scheduler has a configurable multi-column grid that can be used to indicate which room an appointment is scheduled for (or which doctor, or something else; the columns are arbitrary).

In addition, this new scheduler allows a short note to be included with each appointment, and allows appointments to be made for new/unlisted patients (who don't have a patient record yet).

New features include:

- 100 character note per appointment.
- Make appointments for unlisted patients.
- Timeslots can be configured for 10, 15 and 20 minute intervals.
- Closed shifts normally hidden, but can be shown if needed.

Call for further details, or if you'd like to start using this new program instead of the current scheduler!

Out of Office Thanksgiving Week

We will be out of the office from the 25th to the 27th. We will however be checking for messages (remotely) on the 25th and 27th, and will be able to support most issues that may arise, so if you have any trouble on those days please leave a

message and we will return your call as soon as possible. Thank you, and have a great Thanksgiving weekend!

BCBS says DC's are Physicians Again

From dynamicchiropractic.com, volume 27, issue 23, by Peter W. Crownfield.

Doctors of chiropractic are once again "physicians" in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Employee Program (FEP), a designation stripped earlier this year when BCBS classified chiropractors as "other covered health care professionals."

That status change - and its recent correction - are significant because the BCBS program insures an estimated 4 million federal employees, dependents and retirees; and because it is part of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, which has been designated as the model for President Obama's proposed health care reform plan, and has already been used as a benchmark for coverage.

The 2010 BCBS Service Benefit Plan, as administered by the BCBS Association, includes doctors of chiropractic under its definition of physician along with medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy, doctors of medical dentistry and dental surgery, doctors of podiatric medicine and doctors of optometry. According to the American Chiropractic Association, the restoration of physician status in the plan is the result of "intensive negotiations" between the ACA and the BCBS

Association: ...

Read the rest at:

<http://www.dynamicchiropractic.com/mpacms/dc/article.php?id=54290>

Revoking Anti-Trust Exclusion for Insurance

Since their enactment in 1945, insurance companies have enjoyed an exclusion from federal anti-trust laws. However, recently there seems to be some discussion going around Washington regarding the idea of revoking this exclusion. If you would like the insurance companies to be held more accountable and be dealt with more like normal corporations, now would probably be a good time to contact your representatives and let them know you're in favor of legislation to this effect.

As explained on congressman Gene Taylor's website (www.taylor.house.gov) under the title **Insurance Companies Exempt from Nation's Anti Trust Laws:**

From price-gouging to collusion, the insurance industry can operate in a manner that no other financial service sector can. No bank, no investment house, no financial broker. The fact of the matter is that the total number of federal regulations that apply to the insurance industry is zero.

The insurance industry is only one of two industry's that the nation's laws exempt from our federal anti-trust legislation. The other sector is professional baseball.

While baseball is an American favorite past time, the sport does not play a role in securing a bank loan to purchase a home or business nor whether our financial and real assets are protected in the event of fire, theft, earthquake, blizzard, tornado, hurricane, mudslide, or other event.

A letter to house speaker Nancy Pelosi explains further, particularly in relation to health care: http://www.taylor.house.gov/images/stories/insurance_reform/insurance_pdfs/antitrustlettertospeakeroct09.pdf

NJ Chiropractors Sue Aetna

Source:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2009/07/prweb2693214.htm>

The Association of New Jersey Chiropractors (ANJC), one of the largest chiropractic state associations in the nation, today announced that it has filed a lawsuit against Aetna seeking

nationwide relief on behalf of chiropractors and other healthcare professionals.

... The action alleges that Aetna's post-payment audit process is violative of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), and further alleges that Aetna's post-payment audit process and its pre-payment claim review process violate the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act ("RICO"). The action also attacks Aetna's clinical policy bulletins that are used to deny services retroactively.

The suit has been filed as a class action on behalf of all healthcare providers nationwide who have been harmed by Aetna's conduct. The ANJC has joined the action in a representational capacity on behalf of its members. The suit was filed in U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey on Wednesday, July 29 (case # 3:09-CV-03761-JAP-TJB).

"The scourge of post payment audits by health insurers has become all too familiar to chiropractors across the country," said Dr. Sigmund Miller, Executive Director of the ANJC. "Indeed, insurance carriers continue to bombard chiropractors with refund requests demanding repayment of thousands upon thousands of dollars. Aetna, in particular, has been active in auditing and thereafter seeking recoupment from chiropractors."

In addition to challenging Aetna's recoupment effort, the Complaint challenges Aetna's excuses to justify its repayment demands. ANJC finds that a substantial portion of Aetna's justifications relate to chiropractic services that Aetna deemed--after the fact--to be experimental and investigational, such that they are no longer deemed to be "covered services" under the applicable health care plans. Among other services, Aetna claims that the following chiropractic services are no longer covered because they purportedly have not been demonstrated to be safe and effective: Surface Scanning Electromyography ("SEMG"); Intersegmental Mechanical Traction; Electrical Stimulation; Activator and other Manipulative Devices (i.e., Proadjuster); Active Release Technique; Chiropractic Biophysics ("CBP"); Sacro Occipital Technique ("SOT"); Nerve Conduction Velocity ("NCV") studies; Manipulation under Anesthesia ("MUA"); and Aqua Massage (Dry Hydrotherapy). The action alleges that many of these services are generally-accepted in the chiropractic community and chiropractors are entitled to provide such services and to be paid appropriate benefits under Aetna's plans.