

# STELLAR GOOD NEWS

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## Stellar Software

### Our Staff...

Josiah Reynolds  
Kim Weyhrich



124 1/2 North Willow Street  
P.O. Box 1045  
Harrison, AR 72601  
1-800-741-4755 support  
1-870-741-5070 fax  
www.stellarchiro.com

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

## HCSC Not Covering Electrical Stimulation

Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC), the BCBS holding company for OK, TX, IL, and NM is no longer covering electrical stimulation codes 97014/G0283, and 97032 (they are also no longer covering mechanical traction code 97012).<sup>1</sup> Their reasoning is that "Surface electrical stimulation is considered experimental, investigational and unproven..."<sup>2</sup> BCBS of Kansas City is also not paying for electrical stimulation.<sup>3</sup>

This could possibly be the start of a trend, with other states following suit in the future, and merits keeping an eye on if you bill for electrical stimulation or traction. Watch whatever correspondence your carriers send you.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://tinyurl.com/kqm7gn> and <http://tinyurl.com/ksphbd>

<sup>2</sup> Go to <http://tinyurl.com/nulbch> and search for "surface electrical stimulation"

<sup>3</sup> See <http://tinyurl.com/lm2bga>

## Federal BCBS says Chiropractors are "Other Covered Health Care Professionals"

Another disturbing event is the reclassification by Federal BCBS of chiropractors as "other covered health care professionals" instead of physicians.<sup>1</sup> This is the sort of worrisome sidelining of chiropractors that Dr. Ron Edgar has been talking about in this and previous newsletters (which you can read on our website), and leads to serious concerns about

the future of chiropractic, especially with any health care reforms coming in the near future.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://tinyurl.com/n6prwy> (pages 10 and 48)

## Email Newsletter

Would you like to have the Stellar newsletter delivered to your inbox? We are going to be creating an e-mailing list soon, to help ensure that everyone gets the newsletter, and to help allow us to provide you with information and notices of things that may concern you. **But first, we need your email address!**

You can either give us your email address the next time you call, send a message to support@stellarchiro.com, or supply it on the Stellar Office Update page when you download an update (go to the Help menu in Stellar and click Download Stellar Update).

## Stellar Update CDs

It has long been our policy to mail out Stellar Office update CDs every six months or so to keep everyone up-to-date. With the availability of high-speed internet access in most offices and the ability to download updates directly from our website, this no longer seems necessary for most offices (and could even be considered wasteful).

We are considering a revision to this policy such that offices having high-speed internet will no longer receive update CDs unless requested, or unless we feel that enough significant changes have been made that they should have a copy of the update CD on hand

(which is occasionally useful, and why we recommend keeping the most recent update CD around).

***This will not affect offices that do not have high-speed internet, or have special needs requiring an update CD, or who request to receive an update CD anyway.*** We are not making any changes yet, but we would like your feedback. *Do you mind not receiving a CD if you have high-speed internet, would you prefer to continue the current update CD schedule, or would a longer CD update schedule (every year, perhaps) be suitable? Let us know!*

## **Healthcare Reform: Fish or Cut Bait**

Ronald E. Edgar, DC.

Readers, if you have been following the information given to you for the last 2 1/2 years you know the heads-up for healthcare reform has been stated. A roadmap for inclusion in healthcare reform has been laid out for you. You need to contact your state and federal representatives, state and national associations, Chiropractic Colleges, boards of examiners, the White House and get busy. *Your lack of effort can and most likely will result in not being represented in a positive way for your profession in healthcare reform.*

I want to remind you that as of today DC's have not been invited to meetings about healthcare reform. There are many courses for action spelled out for you, the individual, to get involved. Your lack of making phone calls, email and faxes, writing letters to all of the interested parties above can only result in a bleak future.

DC's, if you are willing to go to college and graduate school for 8-9 plus years, take many exams and go into debt to practice, is it asking too much for you to get off of your backside and do something positive for yourself and family, staff, and patients? The end result for your profession and future lay in your good hands.

I along with a few other DC's work on your behalf everyday, but DC's problems are great and many, we need your help too! Have you noticed I said a **few** DC's help? DC's, if you are not willing to put out some effort of your own, then you will have to live with and pay for healthcare reform, and will not like the outcome.

There is little time left for your action. The old saying, "fish or cut bait" seems to apply, "lead, follow or get out of the way" is another. The leaders have let you down, now it is up to you to lead! Please give the staff of the newsletter or myself some feedback if you are doing anything

so that we can pass this on to the readers. Let's have a positive outcome for all DC's!

For your information, one CEO of a major insurance Co. received \$1.5 billion in a bonus last year, and that's not including his basic salary; that is more income than all of our profession has earned worldwide for the last 10 years. The insurance companies are for-profit, this can explain why so many GP's are hospital based to get a salary in addition to meager insurance payments (remember, only 2% of the medical doctors go into general practice). My wish is that we as a profession work towards being the GP's of the future so that no matter what happens in healthcare reform we will be part of it. To make things even better, we would have a guaranteed salary, from one source to simplify income; no more death by a thousand cuts (meaning constantly being denied payment from the for-profit insurance companies).

## **Stellar Updates**

Recent changes and updates to Stellar (go to the Help menu in Stellar and click Download Stellar Update for the complete list):

### **Appointment Listing**

Prints clinic name and phone at top when printing for single patient.

Improved speed when printing list by provider.

### **Appointments**

Added warning if trying to mark a future appointment as arrived.

### **Payments & Corrections**

Fixed possibility of OT-Other type treatment being marked as extra visit.

### **Posting, Payments & Corrections**

Allow to clear stored sublux level from patient file by entering . (period).

### **Patients, Posting**

Next appointment no longer shows arrived or missed appointments.

### **Insurance Carriers**

Added warning if saving a Medicare type carrier without modifiers enabled.

### **Insurance Log**

Can now specify date range and submission type filter.

### **Quick Change**

Can now change secondary submit status flag.

### **Email Export**

Allow to specify range for last visit date.