



- ***Doctors of chiropractic serving as primary care providers led to better clinical and cost outcomes.*** When doctors of chiropractic served as primary care providers in an Illinois health maintenance organization (HMO), the results were substantially improved clinical and cost outcomes when compared to patients supervised by medical doctors. The doctors of chiropractic, who emphasized preventive and wellness care, showed a 43 percent reduction in hospital admissions, a 58 percent reduction in hospital days, a 43 percent reduction in outpatient surgeries and procedures, and a 51 percent reduction in pharmaceutical costs. The study spanned four years and included 21,743 patient months. Source: *Journal of Manipulative and Physiologic Therapeutics*, June 2004.
- ***To be most effective, chiropractic care should be tried immediately after an injury.*** A peer-reviewed article in the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) official publication states: “. . . We found that patients who were seen by chiropractors during the initial episode of care were less likely to have a surgery, and had a shorter average duration of the initial episode.” Source: *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, January 2004.

Other studies released in 2004 support the use of chiropractic care with findings that include:

- Patients who have undergone back surgery have worse general health status than those without surgery.
- Adding chiropractic care to a managed care plan does not result in an increase in utilization – patients use chiropractic care as a direct substitute for conventional medical care.
- Chiropractic treatments provided more short-term pain relief than other treatments, such as physical therapy.

According to the California Chiropractic Association, chiropractic care has not been included in insurance benefit packages because health plans and insurers primarily consult medical doctors about which procedures are effective and should be included for coverage. As most medical doctors receive little or no training in chiropractic care, they are unlikely to recommend its inclusion.

“Ever-growing health care costs are a drain on our economy and make access to care a luxury for many Californians,” Dr. Buckley said. “Recent, independent, peer-reviewed studies confirm what doctors of chiropractic have long argued – we provide many patients with more effective care at much lower costs.”

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