

Attachment 2



February 8, 2008

Allen J. Hinkle, M.D., Chief Medical Officer
Tufts Health Plan
705 Mt. Auburn St.
Watertown, MA 02472-1508

Dear Dr. Hinkle:

I am writing on behalf of the American Chiropractic Association (ACA), the largest national association representing doctors of chiropractic (DC). It has come to our attention that Tufts Health Plan's (THP) 2008 Update Newsletter informed enrollees that, as of April 2008, "spinal manipulation (chiropractic care)" will no longer be allowed in treating pediatric patients. To support this policy, THP listed the "American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) resolution indicating this type of treatment [chiropractic care] is unsafe for children." However, no such resolution or policy exists.

In an effort to obtain the resolution mentioned in the THP newsletter, we contacted the AAP Professional Resources Department. They informed us that the AAP does not have a resolution or policy regarding spinal manipulation for pediatric patients. We are therefore left wondering how such an oversight could have taken place in the development of your company's new policy.

We could only come to one conclusion, which was that THP used an article from AAP's journal *Pediatrics* to set this policy. If this is the case, it would seem the basis for this is scientifically unfounded considering that the authors concluded the following: "Serious adverse events *may* be associated with pediatric spinal manipulation; *neither causation nor incidence rates can be inferred from observational data*. Conduct of a prospective population-based active surveillance study is required to properly assess the *possibility* of rare, yet serious, adverse events as a result of spinal manipulation on pediatric patients"¹[emphasis added]. As you can see, this study in no way concludes that chiropractic pediatric care is unsafe. Could you please tell us if this is the source that THP cited as an AAP resolution on chiropractic pediatrics?

¹ Sunita Vohra, MD, FRCPC, Bradley C. Johnston, ND, Kristie Cramer, MS and Kim Humphreys, "Adverse Events Associated With Pediatric Spinal Manipulation: A Systematic Review" (*Pediatrics Journal* Vol. 119 No. 1 January 2007, pp. e275-e283)

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Given the facts above, we are requesting that THP not implement this policy on April 1, 2008. Additionally, we would like to receive in writing an explanation as to how THP errantly came to the conclusion that the AAP had a resolution stating that chiropractic pediatric care is unsafe. Considering the possible damage done to the profession by these statements, we feel that an explanation is warranted.

We would appreciate a response within the next thirty (30) days. Feel free to contact me with any questions at 703-812-0253.

Sincerely,

April McMorris
Insurance Quality Analyst

CC: Thomas A. Croswell, THP Chief Operating Officer
Nicole Alexander, AAP Director of Professional Education and Resources