

April 2020 Newsletter

Spring Updates

Chiropractic has a unique and varied role to play in pain management during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most states have designated chiropractors as “essential health care providers” or “essential workers”. Some chiropractors have chosen to close their office in an effort to keep their community, their staff, and themselves safe by promoting less community contact to help facilitate “flattening the curve”. In some jurisdictions, chiropractic offices have closed due to state mandates. Other chiropractors have continued to see patients. During a healthcare pandemic, making decisions such as these can seem inundating and ominous. Although the Council on Forensic Sciences has not made any official statements about how to proceed with caution through this pandemic, here are a few things to consider.

Situational Suggestions for Chiropractors during COVID-19

Decisions such as these must be made on a case-by-case basis. There are many federal, state, and local mandates which must be considered. In some situations, healthplan specific rules related to telehealth or telemedicine may also come into play. Here are some things to consider:

- 1) **Check with your state licensing board or other state or local agencies for any specific instructions regarding the following:** Are chiropractors essential workers in your state? Are there specific space-per-person requirements issued per building in your state? Would your office meet the space-per-person requirements if chiropractors are considered to be part of the essential workforce in the state? Are there changes to your continuing education requirements this year? Are there changes to your license renewal process this year?
- 2) **Check with your state association(s).** Did they provide guidance on how to manage the office if you are able to remain open or what steps need to be taken to close the office? Did they provide information on possible funding available to help cover practice expenses or payroll? Did they issue a specific statement on what services are allowed or not allowed during this pandemic?
- 3) **Consult with your financial institution or your accountant.** They may be aware of the vastly changing requirements to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This is a loan which may be forgiven in some instances if proper documentation is submitted to show that it is used for payroll, utilities, and rent. They may also know about grants that may help to alleviate financial stress caused from the pandemic.
- 4) **Keep up to date with the guidance from the CDC and WHO.** The CDC and the WHO are frequently releasing new updates. The guidance of these two health organizations should be considered as new information continues to emerge. Additionally, some state agencies have recommended that individuals wear masks outside of the home, while others have not.
- 5) **If your practice remains open, review your compliance program (and update it if necessary) to ensure that your policies and procedures address the following topics:** Describe your office policy for when a staff member has signs or symptoms of being sick. Outline personal hygiene requirements while in the office, specifically stating how frequently and for what duration hand washing should occur for staff and doctors. Identify pre-screening questions that you ask patients prior to scheduling an appointment and when they arrive at the clinic. Determine a process for documenting these questions and the responses in the medical record.
- 6) **Finally, be careful with accepting the money from the CARES Act Fund Relief that may have been deposited in your business account from Medicare.** There are certain requirements that many of us do meet, however, there is one that should be scrutinized: The Recipient certifies that it billed Medicare in 2019; **provides or provided after January 31, 2020 diagnoses, testing, or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19;** is not currently terminated from participation in Medicare; is not currently excluded from participation in Medicare, Medicaid, and other Federal health care programs; and does not currently have

Medicare billing privileges revoked. If you treated patients with COVID-19, then thank you for helping these victims. If you did not treat them, then you may not be eligible for the funds. Check with your healthcare attorney.

Attention Members: If you have an interesting case please summarize it into a one page synopsis and submit it to drcrystalharrison@gmail.com for inclusion in our upcoming newsletters.

Welcome to our New Members

Jessy Glaub, Ramtin Rezvani, Jennifer Drotar, Naomi Velado-Tsegaye



Join us for our next convention.

Save the dates October 8th-10th, 2020

at the Chicago Marriott Oak Brook, Illinois

1401 West, 22nd St, Oak Brook, IL 60523

Call today at (630) 573-8555 and ask for the group room discount with code “ ACCC”

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/chiob-chicago-marriott-oak-brook/>

Do you know somebody who is interested in learning how to be a member of the CFS?

Share this link with them to help better the profession one chiropractor at a time.

<https://www.forensic-sciences.org/membership-application.htm>

It should be noted, these newsletters are not individual opinions of any of the CFS council members; these are merely to be used for informative purposes. The views and comments expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Council on Forensic Sciences or the American Chiropractic Association. If you have topics or suggestions for these newsletters, please submit them to our vice president, at drcrystalharrison@gmail.com.