

## How Can the CCGPP Guidelines Procedure for Implementation Get Any Worse?

First of all for those of you who do not understand yet what CCGPP is, CCGPP stands for **The Council on Chiropractic Guidelines and Practice Parameters. The Council on Chiropractic Guidelines and Practice Parameters (CCGPP)**, was formed in 1995 at the behest of the Congress of Chiropractic State Associations (COCSA) and with assistance from the American Chiropractic Association, Association of Chiropractic Colleges, Council on Chiropractic Education, Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards, Foundation for the Advancement of Chiropractic Sciences, Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research, International Chiropractors Association, National Association of Chiropractic Attorneys and the National Institute for Chiropractic Research to create an equitable chiropractic practice document.

This sounds very impressive doesn't it? Well call these organizations and find out just how much they really know about this document and it will shock you, especially as they have assisted in its production. There is way too much to say about these guidelines, the fact that they have hosted them already on at least one of the top ICE reviewer sites, <http://www.accc-chiro.com/index.html> which is home to some of the best cost cutters of Wisconsin Chiropractic Bills. As I have stated in *The American Chiropractic* article we have a lot to do and we must not suffer the battle fatigue of S. 1955, because for the first time we can go on the offensive, and get our political groups, state and national to clean this up and get good internal regulation, but you must help! Each and every one of you must help!

Okay bottom line! There is a lot that could be said about this document. I have spoken to a number of political people who have looked at these guidelines and the consensus is that the third party payers will use these guidelines to reduce your bill by at least 40%! That is 40% across the boards on all of your bills, whether it is health insurance, car insurance, or workers compensation insurance.

Now I could write volume on this subject, but the majority will not listen to it so I am going to tell you one more shocking thing and then I am going to tell you what you must do!

CCGPP has a survey at the end of the site so when you read the document you can give your opinion with selected questions. They are using a supposed independent third party to tally the response to questions like; is this document clear and easy to use? The survey is anonymous with little control. **SO WHAT YOU SAY**—well here is the problem, anyone can log onto the survey and say they are a chiropractor and take the survey—including the insurance industry! That's right insurance adjusters can sign in as doctors of chiropractic and give it rave reviews so that they, CCGPP can show that it received rave reviews by the chiropractic profession! There is no regulation on this survey! This is one of a great deal of problems with this program and it needs to be stopped. It cannot be stopped if we do not create a political upheaval about it. Political upheaval means

calling our groups that supposedly supported this thing out on the rug and finding out why they would support such a project! The answer is of course has to be that they were asleep at the wheel.

Comments should be sent electronically to the organization's CCGPP representative as noted below or directly to the CCGPP office at [ccgpp@sc.rr.com](mailto:ccgpp@sc.rr.com).

*American Chiropractic Association*—Dr. Mario Spoto at [maspoto@aol.com](mailto:maspoto@aol.com), *American Chiropractic Colleges*—David O'Bryon, CAE at [obryonco@aol.com](mailto:obryonco@aol.com), COCSA District I:—Dr. Tom Augat at [dr.augat@verizon.net](mailto:dr.augat@verizon.net), COCSA District II:—Dr. David Radford at [dcr8888@aol.com](mailto:dcr8888@aol.com); COCSA District III:—Dr. Kathryn Webb at [kwebb@kwebb.com](mailto:kwebb@kwebb.com); COCSA District IV:—Dr. Jeff Askew at [askew@gcentral.net](mailto:askew@gcentral.net); COCSA District V—Dr. Wayne Bennett at [drbennett@cableone.net](mailto:drbennett@cableone.net); *Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research*—Dr. George (Mac) McClelland at [macdc@usit.net](mailto:macdc@usit.net); *Federation for Chiropractic Licensing Boards*—Dr. David Taylor at [drtaylor@comcast.net](mailto:drtaylor@comcast.net); *National Association of Chiropractic Attorney's*—Mike Schroeder at [Mikejschroe@aol.com](mailto:Mikejschroe@aol.com); *National Institute for Chiropractic Research*—Dr. Arlan Fuhr at [AWFurh@aol.com](mailto:AWFurh@aol.com) *International Chiropractic Association* [legislation@chiropractic.org](http://legislation@chiropractic.org) 800-426-4690.

Now here is minimally what each of you needs to do and you need to do it quickly! Time is of the essence as we do not have much of it; maybe the month of June is all!

1. You must read this document, The Low Back Chapter found at [www.ccgpp.org](http://www.ccgpp.org). While reading it see if you can understand it, as this document is supposed to be easy to read and easy to make decisions from. The more you read it the more you will find inconsistencies. Also read it with the idea the third party payers are going to be able to use this to deny your bills and worse, some agencies will use this document to try to say that not only is your care excessive but it is fraudulent as well. Sounds a bit strong and I do not have time to tell you why or how it can be used to determine fraud. Just read it!
2. Take the survey honestly at the end of the document. Do it now!
3. If you have reservations about this document you must forward this newsletter to as many colleagues anywhere you have friends and colleagues, and indicate that they need to follow these steps as well—quickly!
4. If you have concerns about this document immediately contact your State Association and voice that you want something done about it! Now this is no time for emotion, and the State Associations are not to get dumped on, they just need to know that you are concerned and want something done about it. Remember when S. 1955 came down the line twenty or so State Associations met on conference calls each week to organize and if there is enough response here they may do this again. For those in Wisconsin, please just send Russ Leonard an e-mail that you are concerned so that he knows that there is field support and in the same e-mail let him know that there is no need to reply so that he is not inundated with work of trying to reply to so many e-mails. I can assure you Wisconsin will lead the way on this issue! [rleonard@aol.com](mailto:rleonard@aol.com).
5. If you are concerned about this document then you need to begin to e-mail the people who had anything to do with it and voice your concerns. Remember that

the reason S. 1955 got defeated was we were able to effectively show that we had a large constituent base that did not support it. The Senators and Representatives found this out, as in some cases they could no longer use their fax machines or e-mails as we sent them so many communications, literally shutting them down. Remember you do not have to get to detailed you just need to send the e-mail. Cut and paste one draft and then send to all.

Here is an example:

Dear Mario Spato, (ACA Example),

I have read the CCGPP Guidelines and I find it very difficult to understand how the ACA has allowed such a document to be produced as it does not seem to represent the ACA at all, and certainly will not be good for our profession. I do understand the need for a "Best Practices Document" however this document seems to be heavily flawed as there is too little pure chiropractic research in order to support such a document. This document relies on interpretation of billions of dollars worth of medical research, which makes it a flawed document for our profession from the start. I am also very concerned as to why the ACA would be a part of delivering such a document to third party payers, as I read this document to be a third party payer dream come true.

I am also concerned as to why the ACA would be part of this document and allow the opportunity for all stakeholders to take surveys on this document before our profession has critiqued it. Right now all major insurers could sign on as doctors of chiropractic and take a survey, the results of which would show overwhelming support by the chiropractic profession, however this would be false and is a design flaw of the survey itself, just as there are major design flaws in the document itself. I find it hard to understand why the ACA would support this approach as seems contrary to protecting and expanding our profession.

Please explain to me what you are going to do about this? I would also like to know as contributors to the finalization of this document what the official position of the ACA is regarding this final version of the CCGPP Guidelines.

Please respond to my concerns with real answers to these questions and not political rhetoric.

I await your response?

Concerned,

Jeffrey A Cronk, DC

Now you can change this for each organization, but you must participate in getting these organizations to be accountable to their contribution to this document. This is accomplished through e-mailing your concerns. I have tried to make it easy for you, by posting the e-mails above. The hard working over burdened field doctor must respond! You must take the time to look at this issue, as we can and will stop its release with enough of a grass roots effort.

I am taking the time because I love this profession and I know the real burdens and challenges of the hard working field practitioner and I for one am tired of no leaders emerging to direct this profession. I for one am tired of the special interest of a few having a dramatic negative effect on the majority. I for one am tired of groups like the American College of Chiropractic Consultants, thinking that they are doing the profession a favor by establishing the rules of what is medically necessary and what is not, without consent of the profession as a whole and giving their own ideas and selective utilizations to third party payers to cut your bills.

The American Medical Association did not get to where it is today by allowing its field to control it and its field doctors with arbitraries (field doctors who will set up guidelines not established by professional consensus, but rather by self serving efforts to attract business, by showing the business that they contract how they are able to effectively reduce bills.)

It starts now and you are a big part of it, but you must participate. Start today by completing the above and getting others to do so as well, as there is something that can be done about the CCGPP “Best Practices” document and it starts with you.

Start!

Jeffrey A Cronk DC  
President National Injury Diagnostics  
E2810 Hailey Lane  
Eau Claire WI 54701  
Phone: 715-833-8533  
[info@nationalinjurydiagnostics.com](mailto:info@nationalinjurydiagnostics.com)