

*******IMPORTANT*******

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There are 2 bills in Congress which deal with the opioid crisis and alternatives to the current standard medical addictive drug pain therapies. Please contact your **US Representative** and ask him/her to push for these bills to get out of committee! A sample letter follows which can be used as a guide. You can call their office and ask for their support, fax them or use snail mail. Not sure if E mail is as effective.

HR 5772

This bill, Dr. Todd Graham Pain Management Improvement Act of 2018, requires the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to publish a report on whether Medicare payments, coverage, and coding policies for non-opioid pain management treatments should be revised. The report must include an analysis of pain management and prescribing guidelines, access to non-opioid treatments, and the effect of any recommended changes on Medicare and enrollee opioid addiction. It encourages looking into Alternative Health Care with Chiropractic mentioned in the bill.

HR 5776

Known as the MOST Act (Medicare and Opioid Safe Treatment) this bill has areas which can benefit the Chiropractic profession including:

- a review and adjustment of payments under Medicare outpatient prospective payment system to avoid financial incentives to use opioids instead of non-opioid alternative treatments;
- the exploration of ways to avoid unnecessary hospitalizations,
- a GAO study on mental and behavioral health services under Medicare;
- a study on whether and how to revise payment to providers and suppliers of services and coverage related to “the multi-disciplinary, evidence-based, non-opioid treatments for acute and chronic pain management for individuals under Part A and B of Medicare”;
- consultation by HHS with outside professionals and organizations with expertise in the field diagnosing and treating pain; and
- evaluating barriers to accessing treatments; potential legislative and administrative changes needed to improve an individuals’ access to currently covered services and a cost and benefits associated with potential expansion of coverage to pain treatment to include acupuncture, therapeutic massage, and items and services furnished by integrated pain management programs.

Both HR 5722 and 5776 are bi-partisan and are assigned to both the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on Energy and Commerce. There are similarities in the two bills in the requests to review administrative and legislative changes needed in Medicare related to pain management care. If these bills should become law, they offer significant opportunities for chiropractic providers.
