



## **POSITION STATEMENT: IPSCA OPPOSES HR 3654**

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The Board of the Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Association (IPSCA) has taken a position opposing HR 3654 which is known as the Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act of 2019. We feel this legislation, if approved in its current form, would be deleterious to the Chiropractic profession and the well being of not only the citizens of Illinois but our entire nation.

Current Medicare policy is too restrictive as it provides coverage for only the manual manipulation (adjustment) for the correction of a vertebral subluxation. The IPSCA would be receptive to any legislation which adds reimbursements for X-rays and exams to the existing language. We have also gone on record supporting legislation which would allow Chiropractors to “opt out” of Medicare which is currently denied (unlike other physicians).

However HR 3654 allows Medicare coverage for all services that a Chiropractor is licensed to perform in his/her own state. This sounds like a great idea but unfortunately recent history shows this “wide open” policy is a negative after implementation. Past Medicare legislation initiated a pilot program, including parts of Illinois, whereby Chiropractors could bill for non adjustive procedures. The results showed huge cost overruns. It was projected to save the Medicare program money. After completion of the pilot plan all Illinois Chiropractors were forced to take a reduction in Medicare reimbursement in order make up for this budgetary deficit. The problem was billing for services which were and are not part of the core practice of Chiropractic... the detection and correction of vertebral subluxations. Which is the distinctive and non duplicative health procedure shown to improve health and save money without the use of drugs or surgery!

Passage of HR 3654 would allow the following procedures to be billed by Chiropractors in various states:

- Injectable nutritional supplements
- Prescriptive medicines
- Homeopathic treatments
- OB/GYN services and minor surgery
- Acupuncture
- Physical Therapeutics

The IPSCA feels this bill will once again cause an unreasonable

uptick in Medicare payments for Chiropractic services. What happens when we combine this with the higher than inflation increases in health care expenses and the stress of many baby boomers retiring annually on the Medicare "trust" fund? We feel this could lead to elimination of all Chiropractic services under Medicare. Many current and future chiropractic patients would have to financially react to this additional out of pocket expense by reducing or eliminating the use of Chiropractic. This creates less health in a large group of older U.S. citizens and therefore negative connotations for our entire population.

*Adapted by IPSCA Board of Directors  
September 10, 2019*