

Medicare Tenets Adapted by UVCA

From: admin@viriniachiropractic.org [mailto:admin@viriniachiropractic.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 5:20 PM
To: jconnolly@viriniachiropractic.org
Subject: Medicare Tenets Adapted by UVCA

Dear Unified VCA Members,

The Unified VCA recognizes how critical it is to remove barriers so Medicare patients can receive appropriate care and our doctors are respected and valued. The UVCA leadership has been monitoring legislative developments and reaching out to the American Chiropractic Association, International Chiropractors Association, ChiroCongress and other organizations to gain insights into priorities and perspectives.

As part of its efforts to improve patient access under the Medicare system, ChiroCongress recently developed a list of tenets deigned to guide future decision-making related to Medicare initiatives. Like ChiroCongress, the UVCA takes the responsibility of speaking on behalf of our members very seriously. We believe these tenets will also help us to fairly and equitably assess proposed initiatives. Below is an adaptation of the ChiroCongress' work to fit Virginia. We will review these tenets as necessary to ensure that they continue to serve the interests of our membership.

The Unified VCA Board strives to:

1. Support improved patient access and reimbursement parity for chiropractic in all Medicare programs, commensurate with all other provider groups. Help develop and/or support initiatives aimed at eliminating all Medicare discriminatory policies and practices in statute and in the administrative arena.
2. Continue to support the current chiropractic benefits now covered by Medicare statute. Support appropriate efforts to allow chiropractors to have the same rights as all other providers in choosing to opt in or out of the Medicare program.
3. Continue to work in a collaborative manner with the chiropractic community, helping all stakeholders avoid negative messaging and other activities that could stop positive change.
4. Support chiropractic legislation or administrative changes only if the sponsors are not involved in overt efforts to undermine another chiropractic organization's initiative.
5. Review all Medicare initiatives to confirm that they will result in parity for all chiropractors and their patients. Parity includes, but is not limited to, reimbursement for all covered Medicare services that are allowed under a practicing chiropractor's individual state scope of practice act.
6. Thoroughly vet, in an Independent and unbiased fashion, any Medicare legislation and/or legislative strategies that improve patient access to chiropractic and guarantee reimbursement parity. Vote to support, stand neutral, or oppose any Medicare legislation or administrative changes presented.

7. Review Medicare policies, recommend language, create strategies and timelines for passage, hold legislative events, develop independent UVCA messaging, help lead grassroots efforts with key stakeholders, and offer financial assistance when possible.
8. Respect the right of each member to formulate his or her own position on any policy or administrative initiatives.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Connolly, UVCA Executive Director (540-932-3100, jconnolly@virginiachiropractic.org) or any member of the UVCA board.

Sincerely,



David B. Dolberg, DC
President

P.S. For the latest information on current Medicare initiatives, visit the American Chiropractic Association and International Chiropractors Association web sites: <https://www.acatoday.org/Advocacy/Legislative-Regulatory-Policy/Medicare> and <http://www.chiropractic.org/opt-out-in-medicare/>.



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