

## PI E-MAIL & FAX ALERT

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### Necessity for long term care in Whiplash cases : 2<sup>nd</sup> Approach

Last issue we presented a most useful and popular method of proving necessity of LONG TERM care, by Dr. Arthur Croft, a giant in our profession

Most carriers have huge problems with DC's who treat for longer than 90 days. We know that's unreasonable for a high trauma victim. Carriers have brainwashed their adjusters with "seminars" presented by DC's who claim that most injuries either resolve "naturally" or with a few DC adjustments shortly after the accident.

SO, the burden is on the doc to "justify" long term care. It can be tough.

Approach Number Two: using the MEDICARE GUIDELINES FOR CHIROPRACTIC CARE. Again thanks to Dr. Gary Lewkovich.

Medicare is the US Government. Their guidelines apply to all Medicare eligible patients, of any age. Medicare's guides "may require long term treatment". Those DXs are:

- Displacement of discs without myelopathy.
- Degeneration discs
- Sciatica

These injuries are severe diagnoses consistent with Croft's Whiplash Guidelines.

For copies of the Croft's excellent Five Grade system contact us at [johntawlian@shawnsteel.com](mailto:johntawlian@shawnsteel.com)

**We go any where in California to see any client personally, if we can help.**

### Can Insurance Carriers deny payments for 97001-97755 when service not performed by the DC?

We expect to see this issue to become more prevalent. Anytime insurance can "legally" deny payment they do so with gusto.

California permits physical medicine and rehab service so long as the DC is on site and supervising his assistant. The DC need not be in the room.

We believe the carriers who deny payment are skating on thin ice. There are no laws to *require* payment. Historically supervised modalities have always been covered.

Sam Collins, the HJ Ross billing expert, suggests that your office will hold higher ground if your staff is trained and get chiropractic assistant "certification". That's a good idea but will not solve our problem immediately.

Consider also Shawn Steel's tried and true "Judge Judy" approach. Sue them! See [www.shawnsteel.com](http://www.shawnsteel.com), under "doctor resources" for the 3 step plan to get your med pay paid. That includes taking denials to small claims.

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### CA Deaths on the Road:

- 3,974 number of deaths 2007
- 20.6 billion cost of those deaths
- 41,000 preventable deaths if safety laws were enacted thorough US

[Roadway State Highway Safety Law Report]