

ACA NEWS
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Regrettably, the WCA and ICA are giving new meaning to the phrase "yellow journalism" as they distort the recommendations of the Chiropractic Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Let's examine some of the headlines from their recent issues:

- "ICA Fights for Direct Access - ACA Votes for MD Referral" by ICA Staff
- "Profession Could be Locked Out of VA: ACA Ignores Promise to Fight for Direct Access" by Leona Fischer, D.C.

Here is a dose of reality. ACA doesn't have a vote on the advisory committee and neither does ICA. Three of the 11 members are ACA members, but they were appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). The ACA supported their appointment, as did the Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC), and supports their recommendations, as does the ACC, as the best hope for our veterans. In fact, only one vote was taken on direct access and the ACA members voted for it, but they were in the minority.

There was no vote on MD referral. The fact is, veterans who wish to seek chiropractic care shall have access to doctor of chiropractic, if the recommended protocols are adopted by the Secretary. That is the key. The Secretary has the final determination on how the protocols will be adopted, and he is under great pressure from bureaucrats to water them down. It is our hope that the strong majority vote from the committee on the recommendations, and our own discussions with the Secretary, give us hope of a favorable outcome. If he waters the recommendations down, we are prepared to go back to Congress as we have done with the Department of Defense (DoD) project. The bureaucrats may not want us, but our veterans do, and so do members of Congress.

The AMA also recognizes the significance of the recommendations that were made, which is why they have joined with the bureaucrats in the DVA to lobby AGAINST them. The January issue of American Medical News published a fairly extensive article on the recommendations made by the committee, and stated in part, "Chiropractic care at the Department of Veterans Affairs would expand dramatically if the final recommendations of the VA chiropractic advisory committee are followed."

A review of a portion of the 38 recommendations made by the committee to Secretary Anthony Principi bears out this statement:

- a) Inclusion of doctors of chiropractic under Title 38, along with other health care professionals (MD,DO,OD,DPM, and DDS)
- b) Direct access to chiropractic care for newly discharged veterans who received

chiropractic care in the military for service connected condition(s)

- c) Inclusion of doctors of chiropractic as full voting members of medical staff
- d) A goal of providing chiropractic care at all major VA health care facilities, consistent with distance and travel standards for access to specialty care
- e) Continuance of fee-for-service chiropractic care in areas where veterans do not have easy access to VA facilities with chiropractic services
- f) Inclusion of chiropractic in VA research projects
- g) Inclusion of chiropractic in VA training programs
- h) Comprehensive educational programs on chiropractic for VA physicians, other health care providers, ancillary personnel and patient population

For detailed insights about the VA recommendations from Drs. Bill Morgan, Cynthia Vaughn and Rick McMichael, visit http://www.acatoday.com/government/va/truth_va_recommendations.shtml and read these doctors' first hand analyses.

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