

## The Unrefuted and Verifiable Results of a 7-Year Study in Illinois – DCs as Primary Care Providers

Not all chiropractors want to be primary care providers. That's ok. Not all medical doctors want to be primary care providers either.

Starting in 1999, and stemming over a 7-year period of time, a major Illinois HMO participated in a bold study where chiropractors would serve as primary care physicians in its network. Over the next 7 years, a huge amount of data would be gathered as part of the study. The results of the study, published in the *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics (JMPT)* in 2007 are almost mind-boggling. These results are not only verifiable, they remain unrefuted to this day.

Here is an exact quote "Results: Clinical and cost utilization based on 70,274 member-months over a 7-year period demonstrated decreases; 60.2% In-Hospital admissions, 59% less hospital days, 62%, less outpatient surgeries and procedures, 85%, less pharmaceutical costs when compared with conventional medicine IPA performance for the same health maintenance organisation product in the same geography and time frame

Source: "*Clinical Utilization and Cost Outcomes from an Integrative Medicine Independent Physician Association: An Additional 3-year Update*," Richard L. Sarnat, MD, James Winterstein, DC, Jerrilyn A. Cambron, DC, PhD, *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics* "DCs and Diagnosis" – Keith Pendleton, JD Page 7 *Therapeutics* , 30(4), May, 2007, at pp. 263–269, republished by Frank M. Painter, D.C. at URL embedded above.

The results of this study surprised even those who conducted it. In 2004, Dynamic Chiropractic interviewed the individuals responsible for the study, Dr. Richard L. Sarnat, MD and James Winterstein, DC, following the publication of their initial research. Here is what Dr. Sarnat, a medical provider, had to say. I want you to take your time reading it, and really reflect on the significance of what you're about to read:

"The study really shows the enormous power and benefit of two things: 1) the utilization of chiropractic in a primary care setting; and 2) the magnitude of outcomes, both clinical and cost, that can be achieved when all members of the health sciences work together as a team for the betterment of the patient, putting aside all professional rivalries. Hopefully, these results are so dramatic that they will 'wake up' the health care system (or lack thereof) to the immediate need for true integration among all qualified health care providers. ... "I have always believed that the overutilization of pharmaceuticals and surgery, and the underutilization of more natural healing techniques, such as chiropractic, has been the cause of great suffering. Yet, I had no idea that the magnitude of both clinical improvements and cost effectiveness would approach 50% in both cases.

Previous studies have shown these types of savings when chiropractic has been used as a first-line treatment for "DCs and Diagnosis" – Keith Pendleton, JD Page 8 NMS ailments, instead of conventional medical care. But to see this level of effectiveness across the board for literally all types of clinical presentations within a primary care setting is surprising to me, and good news for the rest of the world."

Source: "*Chiropractors as Primary Care Providers Update to 2004 study shows continued low utilization costs and high patient satisfaction rates*," by Meghan Vivo, Associate Editor, *Dynamic Chiropractic*, Vol. 25, Issue 12, June 4, 2007 .