



## COST STUDIES

Maximizing your health so you're not dependent on allopathic drugs and surgery procedures is a key to your wellbeing as well as your financial future.

Average family of four health care costs are up 7.3%, or \$1,319 from last year, according to independent actuarial and health care consulting firm Milliman Inc.

Oakland University's Stano Cost Comparison Study of 395,641 patients with one or more of 493 neuromusculoskeletal conditions was undertaken to compare the health care costs of patients who have received chiropractic treatment to those treated solely by medical or osteopathic physicians. The results showed that patients receiving chiropractic care experienced significantly lower health care costs. Chiropractic patients saved over \$1000 per patient over the two-year study.

A 1992 review of data from over 2,000,000 users of chiropractic care in the U.S., reported in the *Journal of American Health Policy*, stated that, "chiropractic users tend to have substantially lower total health care costs," and "chiropractic care reduces the use of both physician and hospital care."

AV MED, a large HMO in the southeast, wanted to see if it could save money by having patients visit chiropractors for back pain. They chose 100 patients, eighty who had already been treated medically without results. In each case, the patient had been seen by an average of 1.8 medical doctors. After receiving chiropractic adjustments, not one of the 100 patients had to have surgery. Furthermore, 86 percent of them got better and none of them got worse. Herbert Davis,

M.D., the medical director of AV MED, said that chiropractic care saved the HMO \$250,000 in surgical costs alone!

A Landmark study was conducted by Dr. Ron Rupert and his team at Parker College. The study surveyed 311 chiropractic patients, aged 65 years and older, who had received chiropractic care for 5 years or longer. Despite similar health status, chiropractic patients receiving “maintenance or wellness care” for five years or longer, when compared with US citizens of the same age, spent only 31% of the national average for health care services. The chiropractic patients also experienced 50% fewer medical provider visits than their comparable peers.

What do these studies have to do with your future? The answer is “everything.” Health care in the United States currently consumes about one in every six dollars spent in the United States, and will consume an estimated one in every five dollars by the year 2015. It is projected that by the end of the next decade, the government will be paying about half of the nation’s medical costs.

A report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimated that both government and private spending for health care will average \$12,320 per person in 2015, almost double the 2005 figure of \$6,683. The nation’s health care bill could total more than \$4 trillion in ten years. (U.S. Health Care Bill by 2015: \$4 Trillion. abcnews.com. 2/22/06).

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A new retrospective analysis of 70,274 member-months in a 7-year period within an IPA, comparing medical management to chiropractic management, demonstrated decreases of 60.2% in-hospital admissions, 59.0% hospital days, 62.0% outpatient surgeries and procedures, and 83% pharmaceutical costs when compared with conventional medicine IPA performance. This clearly demonstrates that chiropractic nonsurgical nonpharmaceutical approaches generates reductions in both clinical and cost utilization when compared with PCPs using conventional medicine alone.

J Manipulative Physiol Ther 2004 (Jun); 27 (5): 336–347

Analysis of clinical and cost outcomes on 21,743 member months over a 4-year period demonstrated decreases of 43.0% in hospital admissions per 1000, 58.4% hospital days per 1000, 43.2% outpatient surgeries and procedures per 1000, and 51.8% pharmaceutical cost reductions when compared with normative conventional medicine IPA performance for the same HMO product in the same geography over the same time frame.