



CALIFORNIA CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

Talking Points on AB 2407

Workers' Compensation – Require Patients With Back Injuries To Be Assessed And Provided A Conservative Treatment Plan To Include Chiropractic Manipulation And Other Non-Invasive Care Modalities Prior To Surgery

**The California Chiropractic Association sponsors AB 2407
authored by Assembly Member Rocky Chavez.**

- Back injury and pain are one of the most common industrial injuries and also evidenced to be one of the most successfully resolved through conservative, non-invasive treatment modalities.
- With the elimination of doctors of chiropractic as primary treating physicians after the 24-visit cap, there has been a documented and alarming increase in opioid use and surgery among injured workers.
- Injured workers' access to conservative treatment has been severely limited, if not eliminated especially in back injuries.
- When the system eliminates all non-drug, non-surgical options for injured workers with chronic back pain, their only recourse is to suffer with pain, turn to opioids and/or be prescribed expensive and often unsuccessful invasive procedures such as epidural steroid injections or surgery.
- An independent study by the California Workers' Compensation Institute (CWCI) found that California has seen a 300 percent increase in opioid prescriptions over the last decade. (2011)
- Additionally, the CWCI found that nearly half of the Schedule II opioid prescriptions in California workers' compensation are for minor back injury claims, a treatment regimen that the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine describes as typically not useful in the sub-acute and chronic phases. (CWCI, 2011)
- In January 2016, the Health Evidence Review Commission (HERC) of Oregon which oversees the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) has approved changes to coverage for treatments for back conditions in response to opioid and surgery overprescribing which include the all the conservative care components of AB 2407. HERC is comprised of 5 medical doctors, 1 doctor of osteopathy, 1 doctor of naturopathy, 1 doctor of psychology, 1 doctor of dentistry, 1 pharmacist, 1 registered nurse, and other health advisory officials.
- AB 2407 will provide a cost-effective, evidence-based assessment and comprehensive conservative treatment plan to injured workers with back injuries.
- The treatment plan may include chiropractic manipulation, acupuncture, physical and occupational therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy as well as yoga, massage and supervised exercise.
- Surgery may be recommended in the assessment but only for a limited number of conditions and only if there is sufficient evidence to indicate that surgery is more effective than other treatment options.