THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 02 2008

The Honorable Carl Levin
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to Senate Report 109-254, pages 178-179, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, requesting a study by a federally-funded research and development center to assess chiropractic health care services among Active Duty personnel. The report also suggests possibilities for future research on the efficacy of chiropractic care for military Service members. The research and report were completed by the Center for Naval Analysis.

Specifically, the report states that Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) receiving chiropractic care have a higher cost per episode of care over ADSMs who receive conventional care, and outcomes for patients receiving chiropractic care are not significantly better than outcomes for conventional treatment.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sir, There may be sub-groups who do benefit, or in some civilian studies. We will encourage research on this as back pain is #1 disability (more even than PTSD)

Thanks As Ever, Ward

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable John McCain
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 02 2008

The Honorable Ben Nelson
Chairman, Subcommittee on Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6050

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to Senate Report 109-254, pages 178-179, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, requesting a study by a federally-funded research and development center to assess chiropractic health care services among Active Duty personnel. The report also suggests possibilities for future research on the efficacy of chiropractic care for military Service members. The research and report were completed by the Center for Naval Analysis.

Specifically, the report states that Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) receiving chiropractic care have a higher cost per episode of care over ADSMs who receive conventional care, and outcomes for patients receiving chiropractic care are not significantly better than outcomes for conventional treatment.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 02 2008

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to Senate Report 109-254, pages 178-179, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, requesting a study by a federally-funded research and development center to assess chiropractic health care services among Active Duty personnel. The report also suggests possibilities for future research on the efficacy of chiropractic care for military Service members. The research and report were completed by the Center for Naval Analysis.

Specifically, the report states that Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) receiving chiropractic care have a higher cost per episode of care over ADSMs who receive conventional care, and outcomes for patients receiving chiropractic care are not significantly better than outcomes for conventional treatment.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sir: I am surprised we did not readily find a benefit. I think some do benefit so we are encouraging more research.
All Best,
Ward

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 0 2 2008

The Honorable Susan Davis
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Military Personnel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

The enclosed report responds to Senate Report 109-254, pages 178-179, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, requesting a study by a federally-funded research and development center to assess chiropractic health care services among Active Duty personnel. The report also suggests possibilities for future research on the efficacy of chiropractic care for military Service members. The research and report were completed by the Center for Naval Analysis.

Specifically, the report states that Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) receiving chiropractic care have a higher cost per episode of care over ADSMs who receive conventional care, and outcomes for patients receiving chiropractic care are not significantly better than outcomes for conventional treatment.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Susan I am a little surprised we did not see more benefit & hope more research will enable us to find those who are significantly helped by chiropractic
All Best
Ward

Enclosure
As stated:

cc:
The Honorable John M. McHugh
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 0 2 2008

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to Senate Report 109-254, pages 178-179, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, requesting a study by a federally-funded research and development center to assess chiropractic health care services among Active Duty personnel. The report also suggests possibilities for future research on the efficacy of chiropractic care for military Service members. The research and report were completed by the Center for Naval Analysis.

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Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 0 2 2008

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6028

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to Senate Report 109-254, pages 178-179, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, requesting a study by a federally-funded research and development center to assess chiropractic health care services among Active Duty personnel. The report also suggests possibilities for future research on the efficacy of chiropractic care for military Service members. The research and report were completed by the Center for Naval Analysis.

Specifically, the report states that Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) receiving chiropractic care have a higher cost per episode of care over ADSMs who receive conventional care, and outcomes for patients receiving chiropractic care are not significantly better than outcomes for conventional treatment.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Sir,
I was expecting more benefit.
I will encourage our researchers to keep looking for subgroups who do benefit.
V/R
Ward

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Ted Stevens
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 0 2 2008

The Honorable David R. Obey
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to Senate Report 109-254, pages 178-179, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, requesting a study by a federally-funded research and development center to assess chiropractic health care services among Active Duty personnel. The report also suggests possibilities for future research on the efficacy of chiropractic care for military Service members. The research and report were completed by the Center for Naval Analysis.

Specifically, the report states that Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) receiving chiropractic care have a higher cost per episode of care over ADSMs who receive conventional care, and outcomes for patients receiving chiropractic care are not significantly better than outcomes for conventional treatment.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1200 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

JUL 0 2 2008

The Honorable John P. Murtha
Chairman, Subcommittee on Defense
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6018

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed report responds to Senate Report 109-254, pages 178-179, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, requesting a study by a federally-funded research and development center to assess chiropractic health care services among Active Duty personnel. The report also suggests possibilities for future research on the efficacy of chiropractic care for military Service members. The research and report were completed by the Center for Naval Analysis.

Specifically, the report states that Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) receiving chiropractic care have a higher cost per episode of care over ADSMs who receive conventional care, and outcomes for patients receiving chiropractic care are not significantly better than outcomes for conventional treatment.

Thank you for your continued support of the Military Health System.

Sincerely,

S. Ward Casscells, MD

Sir, surprisingly we did not find a benefit vs std care. Maybe there's some subgroup we can identify that gets great benefit; or maybe our rehab & physical therapists are great! Semper Fi! Ward

Enclosure:
As stated

cc:
The Honorable C. W. Bill Young
Ranking Member

Report to Congress

On

Evaluation of Chiropractic Services – Impact on MHS

PREPARED BY:
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Washington, DC 20376-2401

April 2008

I. Report Requirements

The Conference Committee Report 109-254, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2007, directed the Secretary of the Navy to commission a study by a federally–funded research and development center to assess progress of the chiropractic health program and the efficacy and application of chiropractic health care services in reducing musculoskeletal disabilities among active-duty personnel. The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) asked the Center for Naval Analyses (C.N.A.) to conduct the study

II. Background

Chiropractic services were first made available to active duty personnel in the Chiropractic Demonstration Project authorized in 1995. In Fiscal year 2001 the DOD was directed to develop and implement a plan to expand and make chiropractic services more available to active duty. Chiropractic care is currently available at 49 military treatment facilities (MTFs). Thirteen Navy medical treatment facilities have chiropractic providers on the medical staff. All chiropractic providers in DOD are civilian contractors.

III. The Navy study on chiropractic care was to address four questions:

a. Assess the progress of the DOD program to provide chiropractic benefits to active duty personnel.

There is increasing availability of chiropractic services in Navy MTFs. In FY02, services were added at seven new facilities. About 58 percent of the active duty population has access to a chiropractic services provider in their home catchment area.

b. Assess the efficacy of these services in reducing musculoskeletal disabilities among active duty personnel.

Chiropractic care is effective if it is associated with favorable outcomes in the treatment population. The C.N.A. Study focused on an assessment of chiropractic treatment for lower back pain (LBP). Conventional and chiropractic treatments for LBP were compared. Patients receiving chiropractic treatment for LBP had lower initial severity than patients treated with conventional care.

Readiness Perspective: Patients treated with chiropractic care have generally poorer measures of future readiness than those treated with conventional care. Their overall separation rates are higher, and their performance on future physical fitness tests is worse than the performance of patients treated via conventional means.

Individual/clinical perspective: Patients who receive chiropractic care for their current episode are very likely to seek chiropractic care again in the future; suggesting patients have some degree of satisfaction with chiropractic care. Patients receiving chiropractic care for LBP are more likely to finish treatment with a report of no work limitations.

Overall cost: Chiropractic care is more costly than most conventional care. The total cost of chiropractic care is roughly comparable to the cost of conventional care that includes sessions of physical therapy.

c. Develop metrics for measurement of appropriate chiropractic treatment outcomes.

In the scientific literature on LBP, many different measures are used to evaluate the efficacy or effectiveness of care. C.N.A. looked at inpatient admissions, final disposition of no work limitations, passing physical fitness tests, separation form services and limited duty.

d. Identify requirements for further research.

Suggestions for future research include review of Military Health System data on patient satisfaction with chiropractic care; retrospective analysis of the electronic medical record of active duty service members who received treatment for LBP to look at severity of condition, outcomes and complication rates; review data on diagnoses where other than LBP chiropractic treatment is utilized.

IV. Conclusion

Patients receiving chiropractic treatment have a higher cost per episode than conventional treatment, and outcomes are not systematically, unambiguously better than outcomes with conventional treatment.