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Battle Creek VA Seeking Chiropractors to Care for Veterans in Your Community!

Access the VA Provider Agreement on the MAC Website

The goal of the MAC's Veterans Task Force continues to be to raise awareness of the standard chiropractic benefit that is available to veterans through the VA healthcare system. The MAC works hard around the state and in Washington to ensure that we are breaking down barriers for veterans to receive chiropractic care and for chiropractors to be fairly reimbursed for the services they deliver.

The problems in the VA Health System have been well documented, including health care providers not being paid for the care they provide. Many of these problems stem from the poor performance of Health Net, the third-party administrator of the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) and Patient Centered Community Care (PC3) program in Michigan and many other states. The contract with Health Net ends September 30th, and what comes next is still up-in-the-air. But, one thing is clear: Veterans need the care provided by chiropractors more than ever before, and the VA is acutely aware of that fact.

After some recent discussions with officials at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center, they have asked us to help them add chiropractors to their provider network. Your office is located in one of the counties served by the Battle Creek VA.

If you are interested in providing chiropractic care to Veterans in your community, go to www.chiromi.com/veterans and download and complete the "Provider Agreement Packet" and "VCP Checklist." If you have any questions regarding the provider agreement paperwork, contact VA Community Care Management & Program Analyst Shawn Dougherty at (269) 223-5478 or Shawn.Dougherty@va.gov. Upon completion, the documents should be scanned and emailed to Mr. Dougherty at the email above. If you do not have access to a scanner, you may fax the documents to his attention at (269) 223-6254.

After Health Net

As mentioned above, Health Net's contract with the VA ends September 30, 2018, and will not be renewed. At that point, all current Health Net treatment authorizations will end, and further treatment will require reauthorization through the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC). This means that **any Health Net authorized visits that go unutilized will disappear**, even if the authorization dates go beyond September 30.

Additionally, if you are a doctor who practices in the area of the Battle Creek VAMC, are currently affiliated with Health Net, receive payment through the VCP or PC3 program, and would like to continue treating veterans through the VA system, **you will need to sign the Battle Creek VA participation agreement, available on the MAC website at www.chiromi.com/.veterans.**

What Happens to the Veterans Choice Program?

Although the Veterans Choice Program is unlikely to be completely dissolved, the way that non-VA care is administered will likely change substantially in the post-Health Net phase. President Trump and other Washington insiders have called for further privatization of VA care, often eluding to a "Medicare Advantage" model of care being a potential system for the VA. The MAC is closely monitoring this situation and will keep you updated as new information becomes available.

Standardized Episode of Care (SEOC)

The VA will not be as generous with authorizations as Health Net has historically been. Our sources indicate that all future authorizations will be limited to 12 visits per calendar year, and reauthorizations for additional services will be extremely rare. The MAC is working to determine if, or what, clinical guidelines this SEOC is based on, and what can be done to encourage the VA to consider following different guidelines. Stay tuned!