

In response to, "Some chiropractors making big Medicare-paid adjustments," (April 29, 2014).

Dear Editor:

In reading, "Some chiropractors making big Medicare-paid adjustments," featured in your April 29, 2014 issue, I was not surprised by the attention to this particular case, as a number of news stories have surfaced following the availability of the 2012 Medicare expenditure data which exposed the astronomical earnings of providers.

"It is absolutely appropriate that any earner in any field that is well above the norm in terms of income is subjected to closer evaluation," comments Gerard W. Clum, D.C., spokesperson for the non-profit Foundation for Chiropractic Progress. "Any high-end earner should be prepared to defend their procedures especially when they deviate from the average."

The interesting part of the report on Medicare related income earned by chiropractors is the low cost of care provided by chiropractors. Dr. Clum adds, "The Medicare system is getting an exceptional healthcare buy from the chiropractor. When you consider the replacement costs if chiropractic care was not available to the millions of consumers receiving these services you would be stunned. My estimate is \$500 million spent on chiropractic care replaces \$2 billion spent on other forms of care such as office visits, medications, therapy, hospitalizations and surgeries."

Any healthcare provider who abuses the system should be excluded from it. There is no discussion about it. Similarly, any provider that can work efficiently and effectively within the system providing needed care in an appropriate manner should be free to earn an income commensurate with the effort. Success as a by-product of providing effective healthcare at a reasonable fee should be upheld as a model of accomplishment.

**Kent S. Greenawalt**

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