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"treating the cause of your problem, not just the symptoms"

Target Shortages in the Health Care System by Using All Providers More Effectively

It sounds logical that there is not one type of health care practitioner that is good at addressing every single health care problem. Each practitioner will be better trained to handle a specific group or type of problems, while not being significantly trained to address others. It is unfortunate, for the patients primarily; that the provincial government and even some practitioners in the existing health care system doesn't recognize this. The comments by the Canadian Chiropractic Association (The CCA) below reflect this. I thought I would share them with you.

“Until the barriers to improved inter-professional collaboration are removed, we will continue to experience perceived shortages,” said a previous CCA President, Dr. Grayden Bridge. “Recent studies and reports clearly identify the need to reform the way primary health care is delivered through the use of multi-disciplinary teams and improved co-ordination of care.”

“Unfortunately, despite the recommendations of numerous national and provincial reports, we have yet to see any significant movement to ensure patients have access to the most appropriate care from the health care provider who is best qualified to provide it in the most cost-effective manner.”

The CCA pointed to the de-listing of chiropractic, optometry and physiotherapy services in Ontario and the de-listing of chiropractic services in British Columbia as short-sighted moves that will drive patients to the highest cost provider. For example, many patients can no longer afford to see a chiropractor, physiotherapist, or massage therapist for their neck or back pain. They are limited to seeing their medical doctor only because it is “free”. “Back pain and related disorders cost the country up to \$8 billion a year,” said Dr. Bridge. “By restricting patient access to chiropractic services for debilitating neuromusculoskeletal disorders will only increase drug expenditures and the cost of physician services.”

“Until we fundamentally reform the way health care is delivered in Canada, we will

continue to increase health care expenditures with little improvement in access or quality of care,” said Bridge.

The Canadian Chiropractic Association represents more than 5,400 licensed chiropractors. Chiropractic is a regulated health care profession recognized by statute in all Canadian provinces, and is one of the largest primary care health care professions in Canada. Every year approximately 4.5 million Canadians use chiropractic services. Chiropractors provide diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disorders related to the structures of the spine and joints.