

NY Chiro. Council Feed the Needy with H.O.P.E. Day Program

Editorial Staff

Members of the New York Chiropractic Council designated Valentine's Day as H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat) Day 1997, in which DCs accepted donations of non-perishable food in exchange for an office visit. Donors were also able to choose a H.O.P.E. giving certificate (in increments of \$20, \$30, and \$40) from a participating food store which would do the shopping for the donor. The food was picked up and distributed by City Harvest, Long Island Cares, and other food agencies throughout New York state. The New York Chiropractic Council members urged that other associations and individuals participate in this or similar programs. "To advocate health and at the same time neglect many of our neighbors who go to bed hungry is a tragedy," said Stephen Simonetti, DC, New York Chiropractic Council executive board member and co-chair for Project H.O.P.E. "All health professionals should unite and recognize the need to help others who are not as fortunate."

Coalition for Patient Choice Launches New Initiative

The Coalition for Patient Choice, an alliance of Washington state health care providers and patients, kicked off a signature drive for Initiative 673, aimed at allowing patients to choose their own health care provider and keep their provider when they change health insurance plans. This will replace Initiative 192, for which the Coalition obtained 189,000 signatures and delivered them to the Secretary of State's office; despite great efforts, the Coalition's signature drive did not reach the number of signatures required to present the initiative to the state legislature.

In addition to protecting patient's rights to choose their own health care provider, Initiative 673 would also require that health insurance companies provide full disclosure on rules that govern a patient's health care, including any limitations on referrals or other restrictions that prevent patients from getting the care they may need. Health care providers listed in the initiative include doctors of medicine, chiropractic, pharmacy, psychology, osteopathy, podiatry, naturopathy, optometry, and nurse practitioners.

CMCC Plans "Run/Walk for Chiropractic Education" in April

The Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) will hold its 12th annual "Run/Walk for Chiropractic Education" on April 27 at 10:00 a.m. in Sunnybrook Park, Toronto. A minimum \$20 entrance fee is required, and all participants receive a t-shirt and race kit, plus a chance to win prizes including the "Grand Prize Draw." All proceeds will go toward chiropractic research and education at CMCC. If you are unable to participate, you may sponsor a friend or a CMCC student. For more

Belgium Government Ends Physiotherapy Program at Universities

The Flemish Minister of Education decided in January to withdraw the four-year physiotherapy education program within Belgian universities. A separate program will be set up outside of the university system, removed from the faculties of medicine where the research activities take place. Professor W. De Weerdt, chair of the department of rehabilitative science at Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, has asked people that they e-mail their reactions to this decision to the following e-mail address: willy.deweerd@flok.kuleuven.ac.be

Company Tests Internet Site for Patients to Check Claims Status

Anthem Inc., an Indianapolis, Indiana-based company, plans to test an Internet site which will allow patients enrolled in its health plans to use their PCs to check the status of their medical claims and to send e-mail inquiries about them. Patients and doctors will be able to check on deductible levels and eligibility, call up directories of doctors in Anthem health plans, and read health tips on a variety of medical topics. The site, protected by password and encryption software, will allow visitors to log in at any hour, at any time of the week. The company will test the site with employees of Acordia Healthcare Solutions, and if the testing goes well, the site will be accessible to patients and medical providers sometime this summer.

MARCH 1997