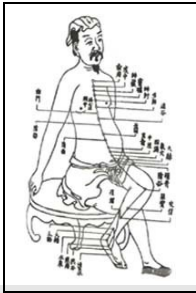


Ancient Arts Newsletter

Insurance and Acupuncture

By Tom Ingegno M.S., L.Ac.



Certain states are quick to accept acupuncture in these states many insurance companies already cover acupuncture. Insurance coverage for acupuncture is few and far between in this state. Fortunately, this can be changed but acupuncturists need help from patients and perspective patients. If you are currently receiving acupuncture and would like it to be covered by insurance, or you have avoided acupuncture because of the cost, please read this newsletter and take action.

New Federal Bill May Get You Benefits

Congressman Henchy has been advocating acupuncture since 1976, when he proposed groundbreaking legislation to license New York State Acupuncturists. In 1993 he proposed **The Federal Acupuncture Coverage Act** (H.R. 818), which would mandate that **Medicare** and **Federal Employee Health Benefits** (FEHB) Insurance Companies would cover acupuncture performed by licensed acupuncturists. Since it is rare that Medicare benefits ever increase, this bill would be a huge push forward and open the door for many to receive acupuncture benefits without having to pay out of pocket. If this bill were to pass millions of people throughout the country would be able to experience a natural method of healthcare which may have been closed to them due to financial restraints.

Why Should I Help if I Don't Have Medicare or FEHB?

Even if you aren't 65 years old and do not work for the government, chances are you do have friends and relatives that are. Imaging them living pain free and drug free. That should be reason enough. Remember that this would affect national health coverage, not just in Maryland. If you have friends and relatives in other states this would help them as well! There is one other very important reason to help get this bill passed. Most insurance companies follow Medicare's benefit schedule. This means that if this bill were to pass, shortly after you may find that your insurance would start to cover acupuncture as well. This would allow you to receive treatment for just a co pay instead of paying cash out of your pocket.

How Do I Help?

First, read up on the bill. Follow this link for more [info](#). Contact your representatives and let them know that you respectively demand that this bill makes it to congress and passes. These

benefits would not only help acupuncturists, but allow millions to receive benefits denied to them because of financial reasons. Please share this information with everyone you know. Remember that this would provide national coverage so be sure to tell your friends and family country wide. If you are currently seeing an acupuncturist please let them know that you are supporting the bill and let them know how they can too. If you would like more information about the bill please contact [me](#).