



BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN DENIAL OVER MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS

By Dr. Jerry Zelm

Employers are in denial when it comes to the prevention and treatment of MSDs (musculo-skeletal disorders), according to Oconomowoc chiropractor Dr. Jerry Zelm, president of Back 2 Health®. MSDs are injuries to the back, neck, upper and lower extremities, including carpal tunnel syndrome, and represent 90 cents out of every dollar and 80 billion dollars in annual workers compensation claims. He says, however, employers continue to make the same mistakes in their prevention and treatment of these injuries.

“For many years medicine stated that chiropractic was ineffective and unscientific. So over the last 20 years chiropractic research got its act together. Today there are over 26 national and international research studies that, by and large, prove that chiropractic care is the treatment of choice for these injuries,” says Zelm.

Zelm, an Oconomowoc chiropractor who has been treating these injuries for the past 31 years, says that he encourages companies to send injured workers to the ER when it is necessary, but most musculoskeletal injuries can be treated more effectively and affordably by a chiropractor who has specialized occupational injury training. He says that most companies could save thousands of dollars annually by utilizing a chiropractor instead of the ER room. He encourages employers to avoid the “pin ball machine effect” that occurs as an injured employee passes through the swinging doors of the ER room. From that point on the employee is bounced from one department to another, e.g. radiology, physical therapy, orthopedics, pharmacology, like a pinball, each department ringing up big dollars for the treatment rendered. And these are only the direct costs. The indirect costs can be even greater. Zelm would rather see these employees sent first to a chiropractor for safe, effective, and affordable care and then referred out to other specialists as needed.

“This could save companies lots of money, says Zelm. “But”, he adds, “the biggest savings is to the employee, by getting to the cause of their problem. Once you’ve gone the entire medical route and still have something “out of place” in your spine, only temporary relief has been achieved. The real problem is still untreated and will return at a later date with bigger consequences and greater expense”.

Copyright 2000, Back 2 Health®

For more information contact:

Dr. Jerry Zelm • 880 E. Summit Avenue • Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066
Toll Free: (888) DOC-5900 • Tel: (262) 567-4999 • Fax: (262) 567-4699

Email: jerry@jerryzelm.com