



Health Care Reform: Implications for the integration of chiropractic specialists

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The Affordable Care Act is investing in the primary care infrastructure in order to change the delivery of health care in the United States. This law intends to coordinate health care and reduce costs and improve quality of care by moving from a sick care model to a health and wellness model. As a result of health care reform, community health centers funded by Medicaid will offer the majority of primary care in this country in the near future.

The current opioid epidemic for the treatment of patients with painful neuromusculoskeletal conditions has demonstrated a need to offer non-pharmacologic treatments. In January of 2015, the Joint Commission called for the use of chiropractic and acupuncture to treat patients with pain. Community health centers credentialed as Federally Qualified Health Centers and Patient Centered Medical Homes are contracting with the University of Bridgeport to provide chiropractic services, education, resident training and research. This presentation will share the actual experiences of one Connecticut community center's integration of chiropractic specialists to reduce the use of opioids for the treatment of acute and chronic pain.