

FULL LIST OF COMMENTS:

Following consultation and input from acupuncturists in Massachusetts, would you support a campaign to pass a bill in the Massachusetts legislature mandating all insurance policies in MA cover acupuncture provided by a licensed acupuncturist? NOTE: Working with insurance would remain optional for acupuncturists.

It's hard to imagine that this is the right time for such a campaign. Insurance companies will fight what they perceive as additional expenses. We need to prove that they can save money when patients choose acupuncture for a specific condition rather than choosing a western medical approach to the same problem. Then we won't have to coerce them against their wills. When enough of this evidence is available, then I believe that it will be the time to go ahead.

Sun, 11/30/08 12:05 PM

I do still sit on the fence as I have seen first hand the problems that can arise when billing and insurances are involved...in fact, it is one of the main reasons I decided to go back to school for acupuncture as I was so frustrated in dealing with insurance companies who had no idea who their patients were or why they were seeking treatment. I think that having the patients pay the practitioner, receive a receipt, and then deal with their own reimbursements are the way to go!

Sat, 11/29/08 6:14 PM

as long as the payment to acupuncturists was appropriate.

Tue, 11/25/08 7:12 PM

Insurance is a broken system. Let's not jump on a broken band-wagon!

Mon, 11/24/08 9:23 AM

We are at a disadvantage compared to MD's who practice acupuncture.

Sun, 11/23/08 10:02 PM

I live in Wisconsin now, so my support is just general.

Sun, 11/23/08 9:18 PM

maybe--it really depends on reimbursement. Acupuncturists have already cheapened themselves by agreeing to discount their services for the big insurers, I am not interested in working on a discount or lower rate, so some insurance company can claim they offer acupuncture

Thu, 11/20/08 10:20 PM

it completely depends on the details. i am very concerned about the disadvantages noted earlier

Thu, 11/20/08 5:53 PM

Yes, although I do not live there anymore. But this is a pandoras box. be very careful. look at Ca and Fl.

Thu, 11/20/08 2:56 PM

I do support health insurances covering acupuncture. I'm not yet sure that I support a mandate as this maybe a futile or even counter productive... leading to increased premiums (whether patient, employer or state is paying... this still matters) and less than optimal reimbursement rates for practitioners. Like Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare's recent announcement, other major insurance companies will begin to follow this example. And hopefully follow the example of their acceptable reimbursement rates. I do not believe that we (the acupuncture community) will be able to exercise control over the rate that acupuncture will be reimbursed, as this is something that the Western medical community cannot even influence for themselves. I think that the role of the AOMSM should be that of effective TCM education for the public, policy makers and insurance companies. My guess is that this would be more effective than mandating coverage.
Thu, 11/20/08 12:51 PM

Only with fair and equitable reimbursement. Not the discounts now provided for those with a acupuncture "benefit"
Thu, 11/20/08 12:03 PM

I don't feel I have enough information. I would like to hear feedback from those participating in the system in other states; pros and cons.
Thu, 11/20/08 11:24 AM

I'm not sure. In this economy, it makes sense and I certainly support acupuncture being available to more people. However, it seems like most people I know in states where it is covered really hate having to deal with the paperwork and it is not worth it for the amounts received for treatment. I don't have the staff, energy or time to do this. However, if it passes, and one isn't a part of this, it will impact my practice even more. So I'm conflicted, personally, while support it in theory.
Sat, 11/15/08 9:19 AM

I would especially be in favor of patients processing their own receipts. I am not in favor of vast amounts of new paperwork in my own office.
Fri, 11/14/08 9:09 PM

More than anything I want to see the rate for substance abuse treatment raised from the 16.77 level it's been at for about 15 years. It's never been enough to cover program costs and all but 3 programs have closed because of that.
Wed, 11/12/08 4:32 PM

Emphasizing lower overall healthcare costs and increased prevention of illness
Mon, 11/10/08 1:51 PM

not sure
Sun, 11/9/08 10:48 AM

as long as companies reimburse at or above current insurance cpt code rates for acupuncture/
moxibustion

Sat, 11/8/08 4:47 PM

Only 1) if reimbursement rates were equivalent to what clients pay me directly and 2) Superbill
billing was an option (in other words client pays provider directly and deals with insurance
company regarding payment)

Fri, 11/7/08 1:52 PM

Above reimbursement fees are the bare minimum only--some flexibility needs to be accounted
for--and do not reflect adjunctive therapies that may be provided, e.g., cupping, moxibustion,
bodywork, electro-stim; and herbs are also a separate financial consideration. I would also not
presume the above treatment times. My initial visits typically last 2 hours; unless I'm following a
NADA or related protocol (very rare), none of my patient visits are as brief as 1/2 hour.

Thu, 11/6/08 9:52 AM

not as written--does not specify what that coverage would be

Thu, 11/6/08 7:43 AM

Only if the reimbursement rates were reasonable. Otherwise, it will hurt the acupuncture
profession.

Thu, 11/6/08 7:40 AM

Not sure.

Wed, 11/5/08 2:49 PM

I would support such a campaign, but again, want to ask the question of why we are not
questioning more about the very system that is at the brink of self-destruction. I accepted
insurance once at the start of my career from a carrier that did reimburse for acupuncture: they
paid me a fraction of my fee, and I waited almost exactly 9 months for the privilege. Is this really
what we want? Can't we be more creative in finding ways to deliver our services that are
affordable for our clients and livable for us?

Tue, 11/4/08 4:21 PM

Patients come and pay the day of treatment and I don't want to spend hours doing billing. I only
make 50,000 per year. Where is the money to hire help to do billing? They would make as much
as me and I would make half of what I do now. I do not want to have more patients to treat to
make the same money because I already work as many hours as I want to and I would spend
several more unpaid hours doing billing. I work in two offices with Western Medical
Practitioners and they say billing is a NIGHTMARE. The physician stopped taking insurance
and now makes the same money seeing half the patients she used to.

Tue, 11/4/08 3:41 PM

I would vote to not support a 3rd party making money of our patients. What about the increase in fees to cover acupuncture? What about all the people who don't use acupuncture? Should they feel the rate hike if such legislation is passed? We can't be naive.

Tue, 11/4/08 2:16 PM

Not sure about the "mandate" aspect of this. I'm not sure it should be required but it'd be

Tue, 11/4/08 10:34 AM

i am unsure about this. i think our healthcare system is in dire straits and am not sure i want to be a part of it.

Tue, 11/4/08 9:27 AM

Once you open this door, those not participating will almost be forced to join in or face the complaints of their patients. It's a tricky deal.

Tue, 11/4/08 9:21 AM

The additional paperwork would mean needing to hire someone to do that and the reimbursement would not cover the time or the money. It is a broken system that must be changed before I would be willing to support it.

Tue, 11/4/08 7:58 AM

"covering acupuncture" would have to be carefully defined - it can't mean dictating the cost of a treatment.

Tue, 11/4/08 5:16 AM

Maybe

Mon, 11/3/08 9:53 PM

Not sure. I am ambivalent about how it would end up working. Ideally it sounds great, but there are many ways in which it could not live up to the ideas set forth by this committee. And even though it would be optional for acu's to accept or not, it is really pushing them into a corner because generally patients are going to go to a practitioner that is covered if they can.

Mon, 11/3/08 12:53 PM

depending on the details i.e. rate of reimbursement

Mon, 11/3/08 11:31 AM

Although I checked yes, I feel very mixed on this issue. While I would like to increase access to acup for patients, I am concerned about many of the potential pitfalls of insurance.

Sat, 11/1/08 2:16 PM

Control needs to remain in the hands of the acupuncturists. And there should not be a mandatory doctoral degree.

Sat, 11/1/08 6:14 AM

It is a good idea but most of us are in small practices and would have to hire someone to do the billing which would be another expense. It is really best for the client to pay , get a receipt and they submit it. This co payment and "hope" of getting the money is too ridiculaous and time consuming

Fri, 10/31/08 7:39 PM

Would really depend on the type of reimbursement

Fri, 10/31/08 2:41 PM

Depends on limitations on acupuncture treatment (use of moxa, herbs, etc., limitation on treatment for specific conditions, eg, for pain only), specific liability insurance requirements.

Fri, 10/31/08 11:30 AM

POSSIBLY, I DON'T SUPPORT INS. COVERAGE BUT IF THERE IS ANY IT SHOULD DEFINITELY COVER LIC ACU. IF IT COVERS MDS WITH SO MUCH LESS TRAINING

Fri, 10/31/08 11:06 AM

ONLY if rates are set to be reasonable - including reimbursing for hassles of time etc spent billing.

Fri, 10/31/08 10:58 AM

The reimbursement for our services would be so low it would affect the qualitiy of our treatments. Have you been to a doctor's office lately and been kept waiting for 45 minutes routinely? This is how insurance drives quality of cre down. I don't want my fellow acupuncturists forced into this substandard approach.

Fri, 10/31/08 9:51 AM

don't know, need to know more first about my concerns

Fri, 10/31/08 9:36 AM

Only if done properly so that insurance companies have no control over our treatments. I don't think that 1/2 hour acupuncture session should be an option. Most people need more time than that and insurance companies would start pressuring acupuncturists to keep all treatments to 1/2 hour.

Fri, 10/31/08 8:18 AM

I believe there needs to be representation by an acupuncturist to speak for the profession within the insurance industry. I object to the insurance industry dictating coverage by a medical model. I believe it still should be an option for acupuncturists to work with the insurance industry. The

time it takes to do the forms and/or reports and notes required for workmen's comp and disability is not compensated in the fees.

Fri, 10/31/08 8:17 AM

If this is important to the association I will support you. I also would hope you would pursue learning about community acupuncture, nationally and as we're doing it here in Mass. I'm not opposed to health insurance, but please note it has no bearing on my practice or on patients' access to acupuncture. That is just not true and should not be part of the argument. To argue such attempts to negate the existence and efforts of the 7+ fulltime community clinics in the state.

Fri, 10/31/08 7:45 AM

I think we also need to educate our patients and have them start writing to their state congresspeople and ask them to approve this bill.

Fri, 10/31/08 7:33 AM

If the society endorses it I'll do what I can to work against it. Unless the bill is written to reflect OUR values. As to the above my prices reflect the additional expense of trying to recover a nickel from a insurance company.

Fri, 10/31/08 6:42 AM

Disadvantages of insurance

It will make my sliding scale illegal if I take insurance, thus making my fees unaffordable for most patients

Fri, 11/28/08 9:02 AM

That list pretty much covers it!

Sun, 11/23/08 10:00 PM

Even with all these problems, I would like to see acupuncture covered by insurance. I think it will make it more widely available, and now the response to the expense of treatment is to make clinics, which do not deliver an equal care to people of less resources, also I end up giving very inexpensive treatments to those on fixed incomes, or low income.

Fri, 11/21/08 12:12 PM

This is Santiago Sifre writing: I wrote to you my main finding after doing this insurance thing now for 12 years. The OM physician in order to remain competitive and do well will be forced to develop itemized procedures and divide demographics. That is, most insurance companies that have some benefit for acupuncture only cover a Problem-Focused visit with one sided insertion. Yes if the practitioner wants to be comprehensive the insurance company won't mind since they won't be paying for the extra work. Only the 97810 code within a problem focused visit, except for the first evaluation -- can be used --there are some exceptions. This is the crux of the matter: if you want to practice comprehensive classical acupuncture, you won't be doing this for too long

if you rely on insurance. So time and schedule will limit your classical practice to those who can "upgrade" themselves to the more costly yet real approach of TCM functional medicine practice. The restrictions in the scope of practice in Mass for acupuncturists makes it even harder b/c the practitioner can not be paid for OV interpretation of labs, conducting objective functional medicine and laboratory testing, performing physicals and is unable to inject. Lacking these scope the limitations of acupuncture alone can be very difficult to overcome in the insurance world unless you run a factory at the style of many chiropractic and PCPs.

Thu, 11/20/08 2:52 PM

have to hire assistant

Thu, 11/20/08 2:02 PM

Insurance billing truly sucks. I am owed thousands of dollars, and I don't have the energy and time to go after them.

Thu, 11/20/08 1:55 PM

Doctors and Chiropractors are trying to move to cash practices for very good reasons. Why join a dysfunctional partnership and suffer the same consequences. The less involvement with insurance the better. I believe and know from first hand experience that insurance companies are in the business to make money and do not have our patient's best health interest in mind and certainly not ours. Do you know of any doctor who is happy dealing with the insurance companies? Just because someone has health insurance doesn't mean they get coverage for acupuncture. People who want acupuncture will get acupuncture, I don't see that it will increase our client pool except in the low income setting. If insurance becomes involved in our practice it will devalue our time and expertise and they will dictate to us exactly as they have dictated to the chiropractic and western medical system how to practice. This is not a win-win situation. Our educating doctors as to the value of acupuncture, our doing public service classes and marketing ourselves in our community - from the grassroots level is the best way to increase our client base. People will spend money for good value health care. My approach is to teach my client base how to enhance their health while having treatments so they get better faster. It works! Again insurance is not a good answer. It will ruin the practice of Oriental Medicine in this country.

Tue, 11/18/08 5:00 PM

Variances in types of acupuncture treatment may not be measured fairly with standardized reimbursement structures.

Fri, 11/14/08 9:07 PM

It is a broken system, but I'm on the fence as to whether or not we're better off outside of it. I can't afford a staff of 3 people to deal with the billing and denial hassels it

Mon, 11/10/08 1:43 PM

may make students go back to school for Doctorates or ? work with an MD

Sun, 11/9/08 10:46 AM

Even though the health insurance system is broken, staying outside of it makes it out of reach for most people.

Fri, 11/7/08 1:06 AM

Most of the above complaints relate to Network Acupuncture (at least I believe that's their name). They solicited me, both in CA and in MA, and I turned them down for the above reasons. As a PCP in CA, these were not such big problems, although I didn't like the sometimes long delays in receiving payment from major insurance companies--hence providing my patients with a superbill for direct reimbursement. Worker's Comp was very easy to work with once within their system.

Thu, 11/6/08 9:35 AM

Difficulty in getting reimbursed.

Thu, 11/6/08 7:35 AM

Why aren't we putting our efforts into using the principles of our medicine - i.e. holism - to influence and change the way medicine is delivered? Why do we want to jump aboard a clearing sinking ship?

Tue, 11/4/08 4:16 PM

We will indirectly represent the insurance companies we bill... leaving a bad experience to those who need more treatment than is covered or require a course of treatment that is not covered by their plan. Patients will see this as our fault rather than the limitations of the plan they bought.

Tue, 11/4/08 2:10 PM

We have been doing a pilot with an insurance company and overall have been very happy with it

Tue, 11/4/08 12:38 PM

I understand the system well and used to do quite a bit of billing in the 80's when we were providers. The risk is too high now due to a combination of lowering reimbursement fees with increased paperwork and delayed payments. It's broken the conventional medical system. I would like our patients to enjoy better access to our services, but at what price? I do not want to see our efficacy and integrity drop.

Tue, 11/4/08 9:16 AM

Simply think it is a bad idea.

Tue, 11/4/08 7:53 AM

Acupuncture should be an insurance covered benefit . Licensed acupuncturists also need to be considered health practitioners under Massachusetts law.

Tue, 11/4/08 12:21 AM

Biggest issue is that they will, if not immediately at some point, dictate treatment parameters. It has happened with M.D.'s and Chiro's it'll happen to us.

Mon, 11/3/08 9:52 PM

Too much time/effort/work with insurance billing and also with charting. Tricky when dealing with a sliding scale. Adds extra cost to the already burdened health care system.

Mon, 11/3/08 4:31 PM

When paying out of pocket, patients tend to be more accountable, follow treatment plans better.

Mon, 11/3/08 8:44 AM

23.

when I lived in PA I took insurance and it was a big headache. If the insurance covered 6 treatments the patient only came for 6 treatments

Mon, 11/3/08 8:38 AM

I know for a fact that insurance is not worth getting into. You did not mention that an increase in paperwork (which it is) results in increased costs because you have to pay someone to do your billing.

Sun, 11/2/08 2:13 PM

We'll have to double or triple our rates in order to be reimbursed for time spent billing and delay in receiving reimbursement and lower rates!!!

Fri, 10/31/08 10:55 AM

conditions I focus on (anxiety, depression, pediatrics) will likely not be covered under acupuncture insurance, and could lead to greater barriers to my practice

Fri, 10/31/08 9:35 AM

The health insurance system's goal is to be profitable for investors, NOT to help people regain their health. It is a system we have very little in common with.

Fri, 10/31/08 8:52 AM

strongly agree that health insurance is a broken system and I don't want to be part of the problem

Fri, 10/31/08 8:15 AM

Patients not valuing scheduled appointments when they are not paying their own money. (freq. cancellations/no shows)

Fri, 10/31/08 7:57 AM

Before operating a community acupuncture clinic I accepted insurance. I am very informed about codes, billing and the like as a result. Medicare's not covering acupuncture is the biggest barrier to coverage because many insurance companies and patients depend on or model their coverage

on Medicare. For USPS retirees, BCBS requires a denial from Medicare. This is virtually impossible to get since Medicare doesn't cover acupuncture they don't know what to do with forms that come their way that have codes for acupuncture -- even when you tell them explicitly the submission is for denial purposes only. Further, many insurance companies and especially PIP will ask for a written report. If you're lucky, they will reimburse \$15 for the report. \$15 does not cover the clerical time and the acupuncturist time. Many acupuncturist do not use computers in their practice. A computer and practice management software is essential to getting reimbursement. I use ClientTracker and supply my patients with Superbills or CMS1500. I have an NPI and am credentialed with BCBS.

Fri, 10/31/08 7:42 AM

It's unethical to have a corporation with a profit incentive involved between me and my patient.

Fri, 10/31/08 6:36 AM

Advantages of insurance comments

All of these assumptions are faulty. The only real thing you can really say is #1. You are able to bring a lot more patients in that then discover that the golden standard of TCM treatment is not really available to them with insurance. All it is available to them is a one sided- problem focused acupuncture visit. Now this is good and you can get a good treatment, but you won't have access to all the goodies. Advantage: most patients will "upgrade" themselves, unless you have signed a contract with an insurance company, in which case the Chinese doctor must examine your head.

Thu, 11/20/08 2:52 PM

I do however believe that if some practitioners take insurance and others do not, those who do not will be at a disadvantage and may be forced to.

Thu, 11/20/08 11:22 AM

Please we need to let people know that we are a medical system that works. If we increase our visibility by our expertise and by results we will be able to set the standards for healthcare. We need to be able to make our own rules by which we practice. And also realize that not all acupuncturist practice the same way. Some acupuncturists have multiple rooms and others don't. Insurance may work for the multiple room practitioner (like some doctors who spend 6 minutes/ patient - which is required by some insurance companies) but it certainly wouldn't work for the one person at a time practitioner.

Tue, 11/18/08 5:00 PM

I object to the last statement being seen as an "advantage" because any acupuncturist who chooses to not accept insurance is going to have a very difficult time staying in business alongside those who do.

Tue, 11/11/08 5:09 PM

Making treatment more available to those who cannot afford it is most important!

Mon, 11/10/08 1:43 PM

Can't really trust Ins Co. TOO powerful. This is a fact, see existing system!

Sun, 11/9/08 10:46 AM

steadier financial compensation

Sat, 11/8/08 4:36 PM

people expect insurance to cover their medical needs-

Fri, 11/7/08 1:06 AM

I see no potential advantages

Tue, 11/4/08 3:29 PM

I disagree that it will open jobs at hospitals. I disagree that it would increase our business. I disagree that doctors refer patients based on insurance cover... this is silly. Integration has nothing to do with insurance... do communists have insurance?

Tue, 11/4/08 2:10 PM

The patients that called from insurance discount programs had the worst attitudes. Physicians get wind of acupuncturists who do not charge more than \$50 per patient, that acupuncturist will be very busy.

Sun, 11/2/08 2:13 PM

don't see many advantages from what i hear from others who do have coverage

Sat, 11/1/08 6:47 PM

I feel that it is highly unlikely that we will get insurers to include mandatory acupuncture coverage in all plans. Instead, only people with the best insurance coverage (ie the people most likely to be able to pay out of pocket for acupuncture right now) will have acupuncture as a covered expense.

Fri, 10/31/08 8:15 AM

Insurance coverage is not necessary to make acupuncture available. Each of the community acupuncture clinics in Massachusetts is VERY successful. We're all making a good living and treating many patients of all income levels.

Fri, 10/31/08 7:42 AM

Parity with MDs is the biggest. If an insurance company covers acupuncture by and MD they absolutely should by an acupuncturist.

Fri, 10/31/08 7:39 AM

Additional comments

I am already billing electronically and am interested in assisting with education on proper documentation/objective measures and setting goals. Mon, 12/1/08 11:09 AM

2. Reimbursements for Medicare typically are quite low, and I would be concerned with whether or not it would be fiscally beneficial to be involved with this. I certainly agree there are a great deal of folks on Medicare who could benefit and may not otherwise be able to afford our services and would be interested to hear more about potential involvement. Sat, 11/29/08 6:14 PM

3. Insurance is the wrong battle. The chances that it will provide enough access to enough people are very, very, slim, (just ask the folks in the states who have it, they are struggling as well) and all that energy and time will have been wasted if it does not. Access can be achieved by sliding scale community clinics that bring costs down in the same range as an insurance co-pay. This is very do-able without reducing income for providers, as long as acupuncture is provided in a community setting and 4-6 patients per hour are treated. See communityacupuncturenetwork.org for more information. Fri, 11/28/08 9:06 AM

4. Does any one know Obama's stand on this issue? Tue, 11/25/08 4:10 PM

5. I have worked for insurance co's as a nurse and it can be most difficult to get a fair payment and coverage. they love the loopholes where they can limit and restrict both treatment and payment. Tue, 11/25/08 9:54 AM

6. I know that there is resistance to this, because it may limit our scope of practice, but I see people all the time who cannot afford to come for enough treatments, and because they are already paying so much for insurance, they can't continue with acupuncture. Fri, 11/21/08 12:16 PM

7. I personally don't want to do insurance but clients keep asking for it and in light of the economic down turn we must put the client first. Fri, 11/21/08 11:45 AM

8. depends on reimbursement Thu, 11/20/08 10:20 PM

9. thank you for your efforts! Thu, 11/20/08 5:53 PM **10.** let's get it going, FINALLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thu, 11/20/08 2:05 PM

11. Yes, but depends on what the reimbursement rate will be. Thu, 11/20/08 12:51 PM

12. It's not that I don't want people to be able to have acupuncture it's that the insurance companies don't support the practice of health care as it should be delivered. Don't you hear the complaints all the time from doctors... Wake up! There is a better way... Tue, 11/18/08 5:04 PM

13. I'd have a lot of questions first. Would we be required to bill medicare if someone has it? What would the payment be? I do not have the space in my practice to work for a lot less than I am working now. I am willing to slide for people who can't afford it, and prefer to do that instead of being controlled by insurance rates and policies. I would like to hear how people in other states have felt overall by parity laws, whether it has increased people's practices and overall incomes and what the increased paperwork is like. Sat, 11/15/08 9:19 AM

14. There are always issues and complications with all providers when you receive insurance reimbursement. Sat, 11/15/08 6:52 AM

15. Because of the health benefits of acupuncture treatment, I am in favor of more coverage by insurance so that more people will be able to afford using it. If there is some way to set up a

more simple system of reimbursement for the sake of the practitioners, I hope that it can be created. Fri, 11/14/08 9:09 PM

16. Federal yes. Sun, 11/9/08 10:48 AM

17. sure as long as the cpt codes are not disputable and there is good financial compensation Sat, 11/8/08 4:47 PM

18. Hinchey bill will pass even if Mass. doesn't do any lobbying; it's a matter of time. Fri, 11/7/08 1:26 AM

19. In hospitals, SNF's, Rehabs, and home care, medicare reimbursment is a lump sum based on acuity and diagnosis. So, whether insurance covers acupuncture specifically, in these settings any service that can improve outcomes could be included. Whether we can convince providers that acupuncture can improve outcomes is another issue. Thu, 11/6/08 6:02 PM

20. The last time I checked, Medicare reimbursements are extremely low, and I've never encountered the FEB package, but these may be useful in a group clinic practice. *Any* type of coverage will at least further legitimize the practice of Chinese medicine in the minds most MA residents. Thu, 11/6/08 9:52 AM

21. I believe the reimbursement rates above should be adjusted based on location. Thu, 11/6/08 7:40 AM

22. My patient is covered 30 visits a year with \$20 copay by BCBS of IL. I have been partially paid and it has been very difficult to go through the procedure. Part of it being my fault at the beginning with not understanding the paperwork and coding, part of it BCBS and their lack of cooperation. The process must be made easier and insurance companies must be willing to work with us to do what is best for the patient while compensating us fairly. None the less, I think insurance coverage is important if we are to reach all the people who could benefit from our services. Thank you for your work on this difficult topic. Wed, 11/5/08 9:11 AM

23. I see only one patient at a time so it is very labor intensive and I will not be able to afford to accept insurance and keep my practice the way it is. Tue, 11/4/08 3:41 PM

24. It will probably be a good idea to move this forward. I am conflicted as to whether this is true progress. It will add a severe admin burden to practices that are known for poor organizational skills and office procedures. The seminar gurus will make out on this deal. Tue, 11/4/08 9:21 AM

25. I would support insurance & medicare coverage ONLY if we were properly reimbursed for our services. My experience so far is that insurance generally only covers 1/2 of my fees which are already quite reasonable. Tue, 11/4/08 7:58 AM

26. I said No on #6 above because Medicare reimbursement rates are so low some MDs have stopped accepting Medicare pxs. If reimbursement rates were acceptable I'd say yes. Tue, 11/4/08 5:16 AM

27. Maybe Mon, 11/3/08 9:53 PM

28. Again, I am on the fence with this debate. I see both sides. Mostly, I would love to be able to offer this to more people. Accessibility is my main pro for this. However, I do not trust insurance companies and would not like to get caught up in the system. I enjoy working outside of the system. Mon, 11/3/08 12:53 PM

29. As long as I am not required to be a preferred provider or bill insurance if the reimbursment rate is too low; I think all forms of health insurance shoule cover Acupuncture. Mon, 11/3/08 11:49 AM

- 30.** question 6: depending on the fee for service Mon, 11/3/08 11:31 AM
- 31.** Re: question # 6....I would fear legislated coverage of medicare would be paid at such a low rate as not to be an advantage to most practitioners. Sat, 11/1/08 2:03 PM
- 32.** assuming it provides for the level of flexibility in treatment and sufficient fees. Fri, 10/31/08 12:03 PM
- 33.** DON'T KNOW Fri, 10/31/08 11:06 AM
- 34.** We have to be VERY careful about this!!! If we end up being reimbursed \$15 for an acupuncture treatment, and we have to wait 6 months to get it and do 20 hours of paperwork to get it, we're only going to hurt ourselves and the profession. Fri, 10/31/08 10:58 AM
- 35.** only if done properly so that insurance companies have no control over our treatments Fri, 10/31/08 8:18 AM
- 36.** Again, with the comments made above in #3 Fri, 10/31/08 8:17 AM
- 37.** Knowing what happens with Medicare and nutrition coverage I don't think I would. Medicare is a mess. Fri, 10/31/08 7:41 AM
- 38.** Good job! Fri, 10/31/08 7:40 AM
- 39.** Only if its on OUR terms!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Fri, 10/31/08 6:42 AM