

Oregon's chiropractic physician's willingness to treat injured workers showcased in 2012 research report

The Oregon Workers' Compensation Division as documented repeatedly that there is a problem with Oregon's injured workers being able to find medical/osteopathic doctors who will treat them. The medical Access problem is so prevalent that a "Worker Access" subcommittee was formed by the Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC). Meanwhile the OCA has been repeatedly testifying in front of MLAC and Legislative committees that chiropractic physicians are not only 1,500 strong but are willing to treat injured Workers. Further the OCA rightly maintains chiropractic physicians are the experts in the evaluation and treatment of common musculoskeletal injuries such as lower back and neck injuries with lower back injuries being both one of the most common and most expensive work related injuries. We have been saying that we are willing to treat Oregon's injured workers meanwhile the closed panel managed care organizations who are not allowing DCs on their very limited panels counter by saying they have trouble recruiting DCs? How, in stark contrast to the mantra by the MCOs a recent research survey reveal just the opposite and was authorized by the Workers Compensation Division and paid for by SAIF Corp with the findings telling a different story. Of the over **5,000 potential medical physicians, osteopathic physicians, and physician assistants** recruited by email by the Oregon Medical Association and the Workers' Compensation Division a whopping **77** individuals or **1.5%** of all medical specialties combined bothered to respond. We have 1,500 chiropractic physicians in Oregon **445 Chiropractic physicians responded or 30%!** However, Dr. Saboe was contacted by SAIF Corp after the survey had been presented to the medical profession and asked if he would distribute the survey link to the email data bases the chiropractic profession possessed. Dr. Saboe posted the survey link to the statewide oregondc listserve and to the OCA member listserve who combined have between 400 and 500 emails so in reality our percentage of respondents actually likely near the **90%** mark! We are well trained willing and able but we are not willing to stay in the back of the bus with our collective hands In the air. The Oregon Legislature will absolutely be repeatedly hearing about this survey and its telling results.

"Oregon Healthcare Providers, Quantitative Research Report: Kathryn Lau, Paul Abel, PhD, Blue Research December 19, 2012