



Jeb Bush  
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.  
Secretary, Department of Health

**FLORIDA  
BOARD OF  
CHIROPRACTIC  
MEDICINE:**

May 31, 2006

Thomas J. Allenburg, D.C., CEO  
American Chiropractic Network  
ACN GROUP, Inc.  
6300 Olson Memorial Highway, MN010-W120  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

Dear Dr. Allenburg:

The primary function of the Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine is to protect the public.

The Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine has received numerous complaints from Florida licensed chiropractors advising that American Chiropractic Network has cut insurance claims dramatically and denied treatment plans to Florida chiropractic patients based upon arbitrary statistical models rather than medical information provided by the physicians. Your company's practice of tiering doctors according to performance and the threat of expulsion from your provider list appear to be a system of punishment of those practitioners that fall outside of your statistical models. The secondary effect of being terminated from your provider organization may compromise a chiropractic physician's marketability when applying for other preferred provider organization panels. Your company's practice forces a doctor to treat his or her patients according to arbitrary numbers instead of clinical necessity.

It appears that financial concerns are taking priority over patient care. If true, this practice places Florida licensed Chiropractic Physicians in a compromised position. Florida statutes, rules, and regulations hold our licensed chiropractors to a standard of care that requires treatment of patients based on clinical necessity. Your company's practice eliminates necessary and appropriate care to the patients and undermines patient confidence in chiropractic physicians.

A conflict of interest involving the relationship between ACN group and United Health Care appears to exist. This conflict of interest, and the associated financial incentive, undermines patient care by negatively impacting the doctor's ability to treat patients. The tiering process and the threat of expulsion from the program compromises appropriate patient care based on clinical necessity.

On behalf of the chiropractic patients in the State of Florida and the chiropractic physicians who care for them, we are expressing our concern regarding these complaints. The Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine invites you to attend a meeting to explain your review process, practitioner tiering process, treatment plan and claims review protocols; and the directives and financial incentives from United Health Care to the American Chiropractic Network Group.

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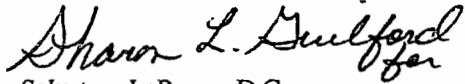
Mission Statement: To protect and promote the health of all persons in Florida by diligently regulating health care practitioners and facilities

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Website: [www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/chiro/chiro\\_home.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/chiro/chiro_home.html)

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Please contact Joe Baker, Jr., Executive Director of the Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine, at (850) 245-4393, or email [joeir\\_baker@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:joeir_baker@doh.state.fl.us) if you would like to schedule a presentation before the full Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Salvatore LaRusso".

Salvatore LaRusso, D.C.  
Chairman, Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine