

January 29, 2019

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Re: Letter of Support for HEAL Initiative: Pragmatic and Implementation Studies for the Management of Pain to Reduce Opioid Prescribing (PRISM)(RFA-AT-19-004).

Dear Drs. Goode, Goertz and Lurie:

I am writing to express the American Chiropractic Association's strong commitment to your proposed project "Implementation of the American College of Physician guideline for low back pain using doctors of chiropractic (DCs) and physical therapists at the initial point of patient contact: A cluster randomized trial". LBP patients deserve high-quality information about optimal treatments for low back pain, including the use of evidence-based, conservative therapies such as chiropractic or physical therapy prior to considering primary medical care. Previous research has shown that doctors of chiropractic are well trained to evaluate and manage patients with low back pain. However, patients, clinicians, policy-makers, payers and purchasers all need more information regarding how early triage to such care impacts patient outcomes, health care systems and individual chiropractic practices. The proposed project will generate patient-centered data to address these critical gaps in a rigorous manner while focusing on LBP care as it is delivered in the real world.

The XX is eager to work with the outstanding team you have put together for this important project. Specifically, we are committed to identifying DCs who practice patient-centered, evidence-based, collaborative care in the state of XXX for potential inclusion as participating Primary Spine Practitioners, convening educational webinars for DCs who are included as study clinicians (including the opportunity to offer continuing education credits when possible), and eventually using the full scope of our communications resources in the dissemination of study findings to both DCs and patients.

Thanks to all three of you for your commitment to research that offers the potential to make a real difference in the lives of patients suffering from low back pain. We look forward to working with you on this important project.

Sincerely,