



*Holiday
Greetings!*



SPECIAL EDITION
Vol. 3 No. 4 – Winter 2005

Announcing...

**Federal Motor Carrier
Safety Administration
(FMCSA) Proposed
National Registry of
Certified Medical
Examiners (NRCME) –
Your Help is Needed!**



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF CHIROPRACTIC OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS

"International in scope and membership...a nonprofit organization fostering public health and safety through education, ergonomics, optimal clinical management and other measures."

Occupational Chiropractic & Applied Ergonomics Newsletter

From the IACOHC President – A Special Message for You from Dr. Joseph J. Sweere...

Dear IACOHC Members,

This message is to inform you of an exciting development as well as a request for your response ASAP.

During the past year the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration (FMCSA) has begun the process of establishing a National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME). The purpose of the Registry is to ascertain that professionals who provide the physical examination for commercial vehicle operators (truck drivers) follow federal guidelines and protocols of the examination. Federal guidelines currently permit doctors of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, nurse practitioners and physician's assistants to perform such physical exams.

Proponents of the Registry are desirous that professionals who perform such examinations are properly trained, certified and re-certified to accurately qualify or disqualify current or prospective drivers of commercial vehicles to assure optimum vehicle operation safety on our public highways.

It is estimated that a minimum of 50,000 professionals will need to become trained and certified in this professional service, with perhaps more in the future. Dr. Bruce Hansbrough, Immediate Past President of the ACA Council on Occupational Health (ACACOH), along with ACACOH President, Dr. David Thorpe, have established important lines of communication with the FMCSA and the chiropractic profession. This positive relationship is critically important to the chiropractic profession as it will assist in affirming our continued right to provide this service to our truck driver patients, trucking firms and other businesses regulated by the Department of Transportation (D.O.T.)

Of immediate concern is that the FMCSA needs to identify a minimum of 1,000 DCs who have provided one or more DOT physical examinations during their professional career. From the list of 1,000 their expectation is that a minimum of 200 DCs will respond to a questionnaire that is currently being developed regarding the process and observations the doctors wish to share. This information will then be used to assist in defining future protocols for the physical examination process.

What I am asking is simple: If you've performed even a single DOT physical examination for a driver or prospective truck driver at any point during your professional career please contact Elizabeth Auppl, Executive Director, IACOHC, by email at eauppl@charterinternet.com or by telephone at (507) 455-1025. Your name will be entered into a data base for your future participation in responding to a questionnaire. **Your help is very much needed** in this effort to keep Chiropractic involved in performing this important D.O.T. service. It is not a significant time commitment to help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Sweere, DC, DABCO, DACBOH, FICC, President

Just Say Yes!

I want to help keep the Chiropractic profession at the forefront in performing Department of Transportation (DOT) Physical Examinations.

I will help review questionnaires, surveys or other printed material as the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) moves forward with the implementation of required certified training so the FMCSA may establish the proposed National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners (NRCME).

Here is my information below. Please notify me when the time is right to review materials: (*PRINT CAREFULLY!*):

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ FAX: _____

Feel free to answer these few questions if you would like to. Thank you.

1. In the past 12 months, how many DOT Physical Examinations would you say you performed in your clinic?

1 – 5 6 – 15 16 – 30 31 – 60 Other: _____

2. In your opinion, does the DOT Physical Exam process has built-in assurances that a driver who is unable to perform the tasks associated with operating a commercial motor vehicle will likewise be unable to pass the exam process?

NO YES

3. In your opinion, what inherent flaws (or other flaws) to you see in the current DOT Physical Examination process? _____

4. In your opinion, what do you see as important consideration(s) to the DOT Physical Examination process and qualifying an individual to operate a commercial motor vehicle safely:

Fatigue Pharmacology Lifestyle Factors (smoking, diet, etc.)

Other: _____

5. In your opinion, what additional health concerns or protocols should be addressed in the DOT Physical Examination? _____

FAX this to: (507) 455-0922, or mail to: IACOHC, 930 Crestview Lane, Owatonna MN 55060