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Seniors' Use of Opioids Underscores Need for Drug-Free Chiropractic Care, Advises Unified Virginia Chiropractic Association

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The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) report shows rates of opioid abuse among adults 50 years and older doubled, from 1 percent to 2 percent.

Afton, VA – September 25, 2017 – Medicare users in the United States who have certain disabilities or are 65 years or older are among the highest and most rapidly growing prevalence of opioid abuse, with more than six of every 1,000 patients (more than 300,000 of 55 million) diagnosed and with hospitalizations increasing 10 percent per year, reported JAMA Psychiatry. The Unified Virginia Chiropractic Association (UVCA), a leading voice of the chiropractic profession, calls for greater recognition of this issue among seniors and their supporters of the value of chiropractic care for comprehensive chronic pain management.

“This call-to-action during September Drug-Free Pain Management Awareness Month sends a clear message to seniors, their decision-makers and their insurers: seniors are not immune to the opioid crisis,” says David Dolberg, DC, president, UVCA. “Forty percent of prescription drugs sold in the United States are used by seniors to manage their chronic pain. This alarming trend points to need for increased education that non-pharmacologic options for pain are a better strategy than prescription painkillers.”

For those seniors using opioids, more than 700,000 adults from ages 45 to 84 were hospitalized for opioid abuse. In the state of Connecticut, a new report showed a third of opioid deaths are of people age 50 and over.

“Chiropractic care is one of the most effective and safest forms of health care to address chronic pain,” emphasizes Dr. Dolberg. “Seniors seeking an improved quality of life should try chiropractic drug-free care that will not only relieve pain but also enhance overall health and well-being.”

Doctors of chiropractic – who receive a minimum of seven years of higher education – are specifically trained to diagnose, evaluate and provide non-pharmaceutical care and rehabilitation to individuals suffering from acute, subacute and chronic back, low back and neck pain, headaches, neuro-musculoskeletal conditions and other related syndromes.

The Unified Virginia Chiropractic Association is a non-profit organization that is committed to promoting the health and well-being of the public through education, advancement and protection of the practice of Chiropractic. Visit www.virginiachiropractic.org, our Facebook page, or call 540-932-3100.