

## **MEDMAC DECISION**

In the recent decision regarding the profession's inclusion to perform U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) physical examinations, the MEDMAC committee used the New York Model in its decision to disallow a chiropractor from performing Coast Guard physical exams (similar to a DOT physical).

They used the ACA definition of chiropractic listed on its website as the reason that the chiropractic physical exam was limited in the scope associated with typical chiropractic practice.

Here is a synopsis of their response received by Dr. Mike Megehee at TeamCME:

### **U.S. Coast Guard Sinks Petition for DC Inclusion**

TeamCME received notification today that the Coast Guard will not grant the petition for a rulemaking change to allow DCs to perform the physical exam on merchant mariners.

This ends a 4 year effort to open the merchant mariner program to Doctors of Chiropractic. There is no avenue for recourse.

The Coast Guard letter cites the merchant mariner exam as a "comprehensive" physical exam with inclusive elements beyond a "limited" physical exam and requirements for documentation of incapacitation or debilitating medical conditions. They cited the ACA definition of chiropractic as focused on disorders of the musculoskeletal system, nervous system, and the effects of these disorders on general health.

The Coast Guard concludes that because of limitations in training, licensing and scope of practice that the chiropractic profession is not sufficient to provide the comprehensive medical evaluation required.