Kaiser Grant Awarded for Low-Income Health Care Access

Oregon College of Oriental Medicine (OCOM) has received a $15,000 grant award from Kaiser Permanente supporting access to acupuncture care for low-income patients in the Portland metro area.

Thanks to Kaiser Permanente’s support, OCOM will provide qualifying low-income community members $15 acupuncture and Oriental medicine treatments. Enrollment in the program, “Expanding Health Care Access to Low-Income Patients,” begins January 20, 2015. Qualifying individuals will be eligible to enroll for five $15 visits between January and October 2015.

OCOM is a 31-year-old nonprofit graduate institution that operates two Portland-area teaching clinics: one in the Old Town Chinatown neighborhood and one in northeast Portland’s Hollywood district. OCOM’s Chinese medicine teaching clinics see more than 20,000 patient visits each year.

Analysis of patient survey data from 2013 grantees shows that those who receive at least five treatments at our clinics get better. Among low-income patients who received a course of five treatments, 92 percent reported having a chronic condition and 100 percent reported that their conditions improved. Fifty-four percent indicated they rely on safety-net clinics even though 58 percent of them have some health insurance. Ninety-six percent of patients reported they were “extremely” or “very” satisfied with their treatments, and 22 percent reported they did not use the emergency room because of access to health care at OCOM.

“Many of our patients are dealing with serious, chronic conditions, including long-term pain,” said Miles Sledd, LAc, OCOM Director of Clinic Operations. “The acupuncture treatments made available through this grant support our patients to stay engaged with the people and activities that make life worth living.”

Additional information about the program and a downloadable application are available on our website: www.ocom.edu, or by calling OCOM’s Patient Services Team: OCOM Clinic, 503-445-0951; or OCOM Hollywood Clinic at 503-281-1917.

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