



Reauthorization for Spinal Manipulation Therapy and Chiropractic Treatment Medical Coverage Policy

UTILIZATION * ALERT*

- Prior to use of this MCP for evaluation of medical necessity, benefit coverage MUST be verified in the member's EOC or benefit document.
 - Spinal manipulative therapy and chiropractic treatment benefit coverage is determined by the member's benefit plan. Services or treatments beyond the member's plan visit limit or services that are excluded from the benefit plan are not covered.
 - Please refer to the Medicare Coverage Database for Medicare members.
 - Note: After searching the Medicare Coverage Database, if no NCD/LCD/LCA is found, then use the policy referenced above for coverage guidelines
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I. Service: **Reauthorization for Spinal Manipulation Therapy and Chiropractic Treatment**

II. Specialty: Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

III. Clinical Indications for Referral

The initial consultation and visits for spinal manipulation therapy or chiropractic treatment are reviewed and approved according to MCG criteria.

IV. Re-authorization of Spinal Manipulation Therapy and Chiropractic Care

A. Re-authorization for Spinal Manipulation Therapy and Chiropractic Care

1. Prior authorization is required for all spinal manipulation treatment and chiropractic procedures.
2. *Ten visits* will be approved to initiate the treatment with required clinical review and appropriate documentation to re-authorize further treatment, **up to ten visits** at a time.
3. Clinical notes should support improvement of member's condition, efficacy of spinal manipulation treatment/ chiropractic care and condition for continuity of treatment as stated in section IV, B below.

B. Continuity of Spinal Manipulation and Chiropractic Care

Additional visits for spinal manipulation therapy and chiropractic treatment are considered *not medically necessary* in the following circumstances:

1. If the patient has become asymptomatic; or
2. If the therapeutic goals have been reached; or
3. If the therapeutic benefit has reached a plateau; or
4. If the condition of the patient regresses or becomes worse; or
5. When there is no improvement within 14 calendar days of treatment and the treatment is not modified; or



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6. When there is no improvement within 30 calendar days of treatment despite treatment modification; or
7. If there is no significant improvement.

V. Limitations/ Exclusions

Spinal manipulation therapy and chiropractic treatment is *not medically necessary* in the following circumstances:

- A. As maintenance program or supportive care;
- B. Therapeutic manipulation modalities that are not clearly related to symptoms and/or diagnostic x-rays;
- C. Therapeutic manipulation modalities that are not likely to result in long term improvement of a member's symptoms/conditions;
- D. Service is intended solely to promote a desired lifestyle or athletic achievements;
- E. To increase or enhance the member's environmental comfort;
- F. Furnished solely for the member's convenience or religious preference; or
- G. For the convenience of the member's family or health care provider

VI. Benefit Coverage

- A. Medicare provides coverage for medically necessary chiropractic services, which are limited to active/corrective manual manipulations of the spine to correct subluxations. Medicare does not cover chiropractic treatments to extraspinal regions (CPT 98943), which includes the head, upper and lower extremities, rib cage, and abdomen.

VII. Covered Chiropractic Spinal Manipulative Treatment

- A. Coverage of services for continuity of chiropractic manipulation treatment (CMT) is limited to one clinically indicated and medically necessary *spinal manipulation code per date of service* as listed below. All other services are considered not medically necessary.
- B. Inclusion or exclusion of a procedure code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement. These **CPT codes** are subject to change and only used as a guide.
 - One service with a CMT Code: 98940-98943
 1. 98940 Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMT); spinal, 1-2 regions
 2. 98941 Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMT); spinal, 3-4 regions
 3. 98942 Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMT); spinal, 5 regions; **or**
 4. 98943 Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMT); extraspinal, 1 or more regions

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Approval History

Effective June 01, 2016, state filing is no longer required per Maryland House Bill [HB 798](#) – Health Insurance – Reporting

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12/23/2025	12/23/2025

*The Regional Utilization Management Committee received delegated authority in 2011 to review and approve designated Utilization Management and Medical Coverage Policies by the Regional Quality Improvement Committee.

Note: Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States (KPMAS) include referral and authorization criteria to support primary care and specialty care practitioners, as appropriate, in caring for members with selected conditions. Medical Coverage Policies are not intended or designed as a substitute for the reasonable exercise of independent clinical judgment by a practitioner in any particular set of circumstances for an individual member.

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