
LHHS Committee
Complementary Medicine Panel

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Introduction and Background

- Chiropractic medicine is a major part of the mainstream healthcare delivery system
- Chiropractic medicine is covered by all major health insurance providers
- Doctors of Chiropractic are listed in state and federal statute as one of 5 physician level provider types (1st doctorate degree)
 - MD, DO, DC, DDS, and Podiatrists

Introduction and Background

- Chiropractic medicine is covered in federal programs
 - Medicare and VA health systems
- The majority of state Medicaid programs across the country, offer reimbursement for services performed by a DC.
 - **Services performed by a Chiropractic Physician are currently not reimbursed by the New Mexico Centennial plan**

Covid-19 Impact on Chiropractic Practices

- Like everyone else on the planet the Covid-19 pandemic had significant effects on Chiropractic Physicians and their practices
- Lockdowns and public health orders, although necessary, dramatically affected patient access to chiropractic medicine. Although chiropractic care was deemed essential, ambiguity left many providers to decide for themselves their ability to maintain operations

Covid-19 Impact on Chiropractic Practices

- Many chiropractic physicians reached out to the administration offering to use their training to assist in underserved areas to address provider shortage issues
- Financial hardships continue as supply and staffing costs have increased while reimbursement rates remain fixed
- As the pandemic has gone on chiropractic clinics have seen an increase in demand and utilization

Access to care issues

- The Covid-19 pandemic has only highlighted the barriers to chiropractic and other complementary medicine providers
- Barriers to access come in many forms:
 - Lack of coverage. **(NM Medicaid program)**
 - High copays
 - Limited reimbursement for certain services
 - Limitations on approved provider panels
 - Arbitrary visit limits

Access to care issues

- Barriers to care only further to exacerbate New Mexico's provider shortage crisis
 - 79% of NM counties below benchmark for PCP
 - 79% of NM counties below benchmark for CNP
 - +90% of NM counties are below benchmark for PT
 - *Ref: NM Healthcare Workforce Report 2020*
- With such a well documented deficit, why are there so many obstacles to providers practicing to the top of their education?

Thank You!

Additional research summaries on efficacy and cost effectiveness of chiropractic medicine provided:

Chiropractic Model Policy Coverage, American Chiropractic Association

In Support of Chiropractic Physician Inclusion in New Mexico Medicaid, New Mexico Chiropractic Association