

Chiropractic physicians treat patients with acute pain because of neuromusculoskeletal conditions and prevent chronic pain with many patients. Chiropractors at the community health centers in Connecticut are integrated into primary care as chiropractic specialists with the specific task of evaluating and managing patients with chronic pain. Chiropractors should be integrated in order to reduce the use of opioids for neuromusculoskeletal pain conditions.

The Affordable Care Act enables payment of chiropractic services at the same rate as medical doctors.

**Challenges we face as providers:**

No Medicaid Reimbursement (State)  
Limited Medicare Reimbursement (Federal issue)  
Closed Panels of Insurance (State)  
High Deductibles (State)  
High Copays (State)  
Limited Reimbursement for our Scope of Practice. (State)  
Limited opportunities in Hospitals and FQHCs (State and Federal)

**How chiropractic physicians can help:**

Clinical and cost utilization based on 70,274 member months over a 7-year period demonstrated decreases of:

60.2% Less In-hospital admissions<sup>[1][2]</sup>  
59.0% Less hospital days<sup>[1][2]</sup>  
62.0% Less outpatient surgeries and procedures, and  
85% Less pharmaceutical costs

**Prescription Drug Misuse and Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council 2013 Recommendations:**

The Human Service Department/Medical Assistance Division should expand medically assisted treatment options for persons living with opioid addiction as well as expand reimbursement options for alternative treatment modalities for chronic pain (chiropractic, massage, acupuncture, pharmacists and pharmacist clinicians). These expansions will support increased numbers of providers treating persons with opioid addiction and could reduce the frequency of opioid prescription for persons living with chronic pain.

**Additional Recommendations to Reimburse Chiropractic Physicians in Medicaid:**

NM First Town Hall 2012  
Presbyterian Town Hall  
New Mexico Public Health Association  
National Congress of American Indians  
National Prevention Strategy  
The Joint Commission