

Chiropractic Evaluation and Treatment

2/14/07

The PA Nurse may approve an EVALUATION if the request meets the following guidelines:

Indications:

Low back and or thoracic spine pain in the absence of anatomic defects for which manipulation may pose a risk.

[Note: Cervical spine manipulation excluded due to risk of vertebral artery damage]

Member is 18 years of age or older

Referred by PCP after at least one week failed trial of NSAIDs / acetaminophen AND heat or cold application to affected area.

Subluxation documented by x-ray

The following information is required for RN approval:

- Description of symptoms
- Subluxation as evidenced by x-rays
- Diagnostic evaluation
- Frequency and total number of treatments being requested
- Anticipated goal and end point of treatment

Initial treatment plan is approved for 2 treatments per week up to a maximum of 3 weeks. A renewal of an additional 3 weeks is given if goals have not been met but progress has been made. A weekly follow up report is required to document progress, whether the end point goal was reached, and whether the treatment was tolerated.

If the request does not meet criteria, the request must be reviewed by a Medical Director.

References:

1. *No spinal manipulation less than 18 years old due to risk of significant adverse events:*

Vohra, S.; Johnson, B.C.; Cramer, K.; Humphreys, K.; Adverse Events Associated with Pediatric Spinal Manipulation: A Systematic Review: Pediatrics: 119: 275-283: 2007.

2. *Spinal manipulation for sub-acute low back pain (symptoms at least three weeks but less Than six months) can produce clinical results similar to standard treatment:*

Anderson, G.B.j.; Lucente, T.; Davis, A.; ett. Al.; A Comparison of Osteopathic Spinal Manipulation with Standard Care for Patients with Low Back: New England Medical Journal: 341: 1426-1431: 1999.

3. "A comparison of physical therapy, chiropractic manipulation, and provision of an educational booklet for the treatment of patients with low back pain", New England Journal of Medicine 339(15), pp. 1021 – 1029 (October 8, 1998).

4. "Clinical perceptions of the risk of vertebral artery dissection after cervical manipulation: the effect of referral bias", Spine Journal 2002 Sept –Oct;2(5): 334-42.

5. "Economic evaluation of four treatments of low-back pain: Results from a randomized controlled trial", by Dr. Kominski, Kevin C. Heslin, Ph.D., Hal Morgensern, Ph. D., May 2005 Medical Care 43(5), pp. 428 – 435.

Approved by:

Clinical and Service Quality Improvement Committee (CSQIC)

Date: 2/14/07