



# Chiropractic Care to Prevent and Reduce Opioid Misuse for All Alaskans:

## Frequently Asked Questions

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

#### **What is the origin of this project?**

Stakeholder inquiries prompted the Department of Health and Social Services to explore costs and potential value of coverage for chiropractic services for Alaskans ages 21 and older.

The Medical Care Advisory Committee (MCAC) hosted a Chiropractic Workgroup where chiropractors analyzed data and created a report recommending broad coverage of chiropractic for all members.

Initial cost analyses revealed significant costs as well as challenges associated with assigning reduction of opioid use to chiropractic care. This pilot project is an attempt to measure the potential for reduction and prevention of opioid use using chiropractic care and understand the value of chiropractic care to Alaska. For the purposes of this project, opioid naïve is not a rigidly defined term and means a patient who has never taken opioids or has not taken any opioids for a significant period of time.

#### **Is this a Medicaid project?**

No. This project is funded with \$2M state general funds only. Medicaid is a state-federal partnership.

### PROVIDER PARTICIPATION

#### **Which providers are eligible to participate in this pilot project?**

All Alaska licensed chiropractors who are physically located in Alaska may participate. This pilot project will proceed with all eligible patients and providers who join the program.

#### **What does a chiropractor have to do to participate?**

A chiropractor must sign the Chiropractic Care to Prevent and Reduce Opioid Misuse for all Alaskans Provider Agreement ["provider agreement"] to enroll eligible patients in this project. This and other project documents are included as attachments to the [project public notice](#).

#### **Where do chiropractors send the signed provider agreements?**

Instructions are included on the provider agreement.

#### **What is expected of the chiropractor after each visit?**

Refer to the provider agreement for instructions.

## PATIENT PARTICIPATION

### Which patients are eligible to participate in this pilot project?

All Alaska residents aged 21 and older, who are physically located in the State, and who do not have chiropractic coverage through any other payer may participate.

### Does this mean Alaska Medicaid is going to start covering adult chiropractic services?

This project is intended to pilot chiropractic coverage to reduce or prevent opioid use. Currently there are no plans to change Medicaid coverage of chiropractic services.

### Is travel reimbursable if the patient is not in the same immediate vicinity of the provider as part of this project?

No. Patients are responsible for the cost of their own travel.

## PROJECT DETAILS

### How long will this project last?

This project is scheduled to run March 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022 or until funds are depleted, whichever comes last.

### Is there a limit on the number of patient visits?

Each enrolled patient is eligible for up to 10 visits over the duration of the project.

### Is a referral required to participate?

Yes, the patient must be referred to the chiropractor by a pain specialist.

### How much will chiropractors be paid for project services?

Chiropractors will be paid the current SFY 22 resource-based relative value scale rates for Alaska.

72020	X-RAY EXAM OF SPINE 1 VIEW	\$32.87
72040	X-RAY EXAM NECK SPINE 2-3 VW	\$52.22
72050	X-RAY EXAM NECK SPINE 4/5VWS	\$69.70
72052	X-RAY EXAM NECK SPINE 6/>VWS	\$81.73
72070	X-RAY EXAM THORAC SPINE 2VWS	\$43.34
72072	X-RAY EXAM THORAC SPINE 3VWS	\$51.94
72074	X-RAY EXAM THORAC SPINE4/>VW	\$59.10
72080	X-RAY EXAM THORACOLMB 2/> VW	\$46.06

72081	X-RAY EXAM ENTIRE SPI 1 VW	\$56.24
72082	X-RAY EXAM ENTIRE SPI 2/3 VW	\$91.75
72083	X-RAY EXAM ENTIRE SPI 4/5 VW	\$103.93
72084	X-RAY EXAM ENTIRE SPI 6/> VW	\$127.80
72100	X-RAY EXAM L-S SPINE 2/3 VWS	\$52.65
72110	X-RAY EXAM L-2 SPINE 4/>VWS	\$66.97
72114	X-RAY EXAM L-S SPINE BENDING	\$81.73
72120	X-RAY BEND ONLY L-S SPINE	\$53.94
98940	CHIROPRACT MANJ 1-2 REGIONS	\$41.33
98941	CHIROPRACT MANJ 3-4 REGIONS	\$60.03
98942	CHIROPRACTIC MANJ 5 REGIONS	\$78.96
98943	CHIROPRACT MANJ EXTRASPINAL, ONE OR MORE REGIONS	\$39.89

#### **How is initial exam reimbursed?**

Initial exam reimbursement is included with x-ray reimbursement or treatment reimbursement. Due to the short duration of the pilot project, the exam will need to be completed at the same visit as other services.

#### **Which chiropractic modalities are covered?**

The scope of this project is limited to manual manipulation of the spine. Additional modalities cannot be covered at this time.

#### **What type of support is the State of Alaska providing for this project?**

Support for this project is focused on reimbursement and review of submitted documents. Providers are responsible to enroll patients and manage cases appropriately as per the provider agreement. Reporting requirements are necessary to establish response to treatment within the scope of the project. Sharing of Medicaid data analysis and direct patient outreach by the State of Alaska is outside the scope of this project. Third party measurement is outside of the scope of this pilot project and will consume funds designated for chiropractic treatment.

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

If you have questions that are not addressed in this document, please contact [kathy.berry@alaska.gov](mailto:kathy.berry@alaska.gov) and include "Chiropractic Pilot Project" in the subject line. Do not include personal health or other confidential information. This document will be updated as new questions are received.