

Conservative Care First – Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association

Should we be offering patients the safest, most effective and cost effective treatment options before those options with higher expense, higher risk or less effectiveness are considered.

Chiropractic Spinal Manipulation is proven to be the safest, most effective and most cost effective treatment option for patients with back and leg pain, neck and arm pain and headaches. Chiropractic care is associated with lower cost, fewer days of missed work, fewer prescription medications used, less advanced imaging studies, shorter duration episodes and patient satisfaction rates over 95%.

Opportunities in Pennsylvania to improve patient access to Chiropractic care:

- Medicaid. The highest rates of opioid use and the lowest rates of chiropractic use. Reimbursement of \$13.00 per visit preclude provider participation. Increasing reimbursement would improve access.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers (335 in PA) underutilize Chiropractic providers when treating Medicaid patients. Encouraging inclusion of Chiropractic providers would improve access for Medicaid patients.
- Some private health insurers design benefits to use Chiropractic for acute care only. Encouraging benefit design to include Chiropractic for chronic pain management would improve access.
- Out of state Third Party Administrators (TPA) restrict patient access to Chiropractic care for chronic conditions. Adverse determinations are appealed to the TPA and are seldom effective. If TPA were regulated through the PID it would improve the process for patients.
- Auto Insurance minimum personal injury coverage is \$5000. Often the benefit is exhausted before Chiropractic is considered. Increasing the minimum required coverage would improve access for patients.
- Workers Compensation provider panels should promote conservative care first for injured workers or be removed to allow patients open access to providers of their choosing.
- Consider including a Doctor of Chiropractic on state health related panels, task forces and work groups.