Educational Sheet for Evaluation & Management with Chiropractic Manipulation Therapy

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Evaluation & Management (E&M) with Chiropractic Manipulation Therapy (CMT)

According to the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI): Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) often publishes coding instructions in its rules, manuals, and notices. Physicians must use these instructions when reporting services.

The CPT® Manual also includes coding instructions which may be found in the introduction, individual chapters, and appendices. In individual chapters, the instructions may appear at the beginning of a chapter, at the beginning of a subsection of the chapter, or after specific CPT® codes. Physicians should follow CPT® Manual instructions unless CMS has provided different coding or reporting instructions.

The American Medical Association (AMA) publishes *CPT® Assistant*, which contains coding guidelines. CMS does not review nor approve the information in this publication. In the development of NCCI edits, CMS occasionally disagrees with the information in this publication. If a physician utilizes information from *CPT® Assistant* to report services rendered to Medicare patients, it is possible that Medicare Carriers (A/B Medicare Administrative Contractors processing practitioner service claims) and Fiscal Intermediaries may utilize different criteria to process claims.

Per *CPT® Assistant,* CMT procedures include the review of prior radiologic imaging, test interpretation, and test results and pre-manipulation patient assessment, and are considered inclusive components of the CMT codes (98940-98943). Additional E&M services are performed and reported separately with modifier 25, if and only if the patient's condition requires a significant separately identifiable E&M service above and beyond the usual pre-service work associated with the CMT procedure.

The complete service of CMT requires a certain amount of pre-service and intra-service work that is included as part of the service. This E&M is necessary to determine not only what specific manipulative work will be necessary but also to determine the effectiveness of the service being provided. It is inclusive in the CMT and is not separately reported E&M. The pre-service work includes review of previously gathered clinical data (including an initial or interim history, reviewing the problem list, pertinent correspondence or reports, and other important findings and prior care); review of prior imaging and other test results; test interpretation; and care planning. The intra-service work includes an interactive patient reassessment (i.e., determining the current status, determining indications or contraindications, assessing the change in condition, evaluating any new complaints, correlating physical findings, and coordinating and modifying the current treatment plan). Also, included in the intra-service work are a number of manipulation and post adjustment

assessments that are necessary in order to adequately treat the ailment presented. This work is inherently included as part of the CMT service and would not be reported separately.

In addition, *CPT® Assistant* states that the review of prior radiologic imaging, test interpretation, and other test results is considered an inclusive component of the CMT codes (98940-98943), pre-manipulation patient assessment.

Clinical Examples

- **Pay Example:** The patient presented to a chiropractor, following a car accident, with new complaints of lumbar and thoracic pain. The chiropractor performed a thorough exam and performed manipulation to the spine. A separate E&M service is appropriate, as well as the CMT, as modifier 25 criteria has been met.
- **Deny Example:** The patient returns to their chiropractor for their weekly visit for cervical and upper thoracic pain related to sleeping in bad positions. Treatment consists of manipulation to those areas. The patient is told to return in one week. A separate E&M is not appropriate as modifier 25 criteria was not met.

Additional References

NCCI Policy Manual

CPT® Assistant