

Wellness Chiropractic
20 East Blue Hill Road, P.O. Box 326
Blue Hill, ME 04614

~ATTENTION ALL MEDICARE PATIENTS~

As you are all aware, the health care system is rapidly changing in our country. It is our goal to keep everyone updated as to what that means to you as a patient at Wellness Chiropractic. Please let us know immediately if your Medicare information has changed in the new year.

GOOD NEWS!

Medicare is still likely to cover at least some of your chiropractic care. However, Medicare ONLY covers the cost of the chiropractic adjustments designed to help correct vertebral subluxation. This is when bones of the spinal column lose their normal motion and position, which results in symptoms and functional limitations.

THE EXAMINATION

An examination is necessary to identify the presence of vertebral subluxation and Medicare does require this exam. But Medicare does not pay for the cost of the exam or any needed X-rays. We are in the process of reviewing current files to determine if you need an exam at the beginning of the year. If you have an exacerbation of your current condition or a new condition arises please let us know when you schedule because an updated exam will be necessary.

MEDICAL NECESSITY

For Medicare to pay for your adjustments, they must be "medically necessary." That means:

1. Your adjustments must relate directly to your specific health complaint,
2. Your adjustments must hold the promise of making functional improvements, and
3. You must follow your chiropractor's specific plan for active treatment.

FUNCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Instead of judging your progress simply by how you feel, Medicare wants to see improved function. That means a restored ability to turn, bend, walk, sleep and generally perform your daily activities. We will ask you questions about these activities and ask you to fill out a form keep track of your progress.

Once improvement stops, Medicare coverage stops. That's because they consider further care to be maintenance care and expect you to self-pay. The number of adjustments covered by Medicare varies. It's based on the severity of your condition(s). Sometimes, more visits will be needed than what Medicare will pay for. If continued care seems promising to you (but not Medicare), you will pay for the care yourself.

MAINTENANCE CARE

Medicare does not pay for chiropractic care to maintain your progress or help prevent problems. While most patients see the wisdom of some type of wellness care, Medicare does not pay for it. Recognizing the value of protecting their improvement, many opt to self-pay.

EXCLUDED SERVICES

We only recommend the care that is clinically appropriate. That might include other procedures such as exercise therapy or rapid release therapy (RRT). Medicare does not pay for these, nor do they pay for adjustments to your wrist, ankle or other extremity.

We look forward to continue showing you ways to get well and stay well. Naturally. Without drugs or surgery.