

Legislative Fact Sheet

Modifying Coverage of Chiropractic Services in the Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare Programs



SF 595—Senator Bill Lieske (R 58)

Senators Paul Utke (R 5), John Hoffman (DFL 34),
Calvin Bahr (R 31) and Robert Kupec (DFL 4)

HF 97—Rep John Huot (DFL 56B)

Reps. Erin Koegel (DFL 39A), Joe Schomacker (R 21A), Steve Elkins (DFL 50B), Bernie Perryman (R 14A), Dave Baker (R 16B), Liz Reyer (DFL 52A) and Andy Smith (DFL 25B)

1. Chiropractic doctors care for patients with a wide range of health problems, providing physician-level services including **consultation, examination, diagnosis, treatment and patient management, and referral to and from medical specialists and diagnostic centers**.
2. Chiropractic doctors are well trained to provide clinically effective, non-pharmacologic care to patients with **common neuromusculoskeletal problems** such as back and neck pain – now recognized as the leading cause of days lost due to disability.
3. Peer-reviewed research and industry reports suggest that early chiropractic treatment for spine-related pain leads to **better outcomes, lower total costs, and high patient satisfaction**. For back pain, **practice guidelines** published by the **American College of Physicians** and the **CDC** recommend using **nonpharmacologic** treatment methods commonly provided by chiropractors.
4. Medical Assistance patients must have equal access to all the necessary care that may be beneficial **without paying out-of-pocket** for services otherwise available from other providers, including medical physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and physical therapists.
5. Currently, chiropractic patients are asked to sign an **Advance Recipient Notice of Non-Covered Service** informing them of their obligation to personally pay for services within the Doctor of Chiropractic's scope of practice but not reimbursable in the Medical Assistance Program. These services include:
 - All clinically indicated physical examinations
 - Supervised in-office rehabilitative exercises
 - Other non-manipulative and rehabilitative therapies

On October 23, 2023, the Health Services Advisory Council (HSAC), whose membership includes physicians, other health care providers, and a consumer representative, voted to recommend expanding coverage for the full scope of chiropractic services in Minnesota's public health care programs.

6. **There should be no barriers** preventing low-income Minnesotans from receiving the clinically effective, cost-efficient care provided by chiropractic doctors, and no discrimination in terms of either coverage for services or reimbursement based on the type of licensed healthcare provider.

Please support this legislation is in the best interest of low-income patients who often pay out-of-pocket when they receive care from chiropractic doctors.

If you are interested in receiving peer-reviewed research reports focused on the clinical efficacy and cost-efficiency of chiropractic care for spine pain, don't hesitate to get in touch with Northwestern Health Sciences University at: csawyer@nwhealth.edu

For additional legislative information, don't hesitate to get in touch with Mr. Cody Holliday, lead lobbyist for the Minnesota Chiropractic Association, at cholliday@fredgov.com