OSTEOPATHIC (OMT) AND CHIROPRACTIC (CMT) MANIPULATIVE TREATMENT
THE803.017

COVERAGE:

Osteopathic and Chiropractic Manipulation MAY BE ELIGIBLE for coverage if the diagnosis is related to a musculoskeletal disease such as:

- Arthritis,
- Fibrositis,
- Sprains,
- Strains, and
- Somatic dysfunction - impaired or altered function of related components of the somatic (body framework) system: skeletal, arthrodial (a type of synovial joint in which the opposed surfaces are flat or only slightly curved), and myofascial structures and related vascular, lymphatic, and neural elements.

Manipulation of the rib cage MAY BE ELIGIBLE for coverage for treatment of respiratory conditions such as Bronchitis, Emphysema, and Asthma when it is performed with other covered therapy (e.g., bronchodilators, inhaled steroids, etc.). Office records should document evidence of pulmonary disease confirmed by:

- x-rays,
- treatment with antibiotics,
- inhalation therapy, and
- other therapy as appropriate.

Manipulation of the temporomandibular joint, head, abdomen or visceral area IS NOT ELIGIBLE for coverage.

An initial office visit by an Osteopathic physician or Chiropractor MAY BE ELIGIBLE for coverage prior to the first manipulative treatment. Subsequent treatments will be allowed either as an office visit or OMT/CMT service, but not both. OMT and CMT services will rebundle to any subsequent E&M service with the following exception:

Evaluation and management (E/M) services by an osteopathic physician may be reported separately, if, and only if, the patient's condition requires a significant separately identifiable E/M service, above and beyond the usual preservice and post service work associated with the procedure. (Example: the patient may be seen for a sore throat or headache unrelated to OMT.)

DESCRIPTION:

OMT or CMT Manipulative Treatment involves diagnosis, followed by the therapeutic application of manual procedures by an osteopathic physician or a chiropractor to alleviate somatic dysfunction and
related disorders. Manipulative treatment is not the same as traditional physical therapy techniques. OMT/CMT may be accomplished by a variety of techniques.

Manipulative treatment involves the same principles utilized in diagnosing and treating any musculoskeletal disease amenable to manipulation. The diagnosis must be specific. Once an accurate diagnosis has been made, the provider will determine the appropriate techniques and treatment. Several different treatment techniques may be integrated for one patient. Adjunctive modalities may be employed in the total case management of the patient's condition.

RATIONALE:

None

PRICING:

When manipulation of the spine is performed, cervical, thoracic, lumbar, and/or sacrum areas should not be considered separately, but should be considered as one body area.

DISCLAIMER:

State and federal law, as well as contract language, including definitions and specific inclusions/exclusions, takes precedence over Medical Policy and must be considered first in determining coverage. The member’s contract benefits in effect on the date that services are rendered must be used. Any benefits are subject to the payment of premiums for the date on which services are rendered. Medical technology is constantly evolving, and we reserve the right to review and update Medical Policy periodically. HMO Blue Texas physicians who are contracted/affiliated with a capitated IPA/medical group must contact the IPA/medical group for information regarding HMO claims/reimbursement information and other general polices and procedures.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company*
Southwest Texas HMO, Inc.* d/b/a HMO Blue® Texas
* Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Posted Jan. 7, 2003