

Client Services Policy Manual

Policy Number: **HC-02**
Subject: **Chiropractic Care**
Chapter: **Health Care Services**

Policy Statement

Chiropractic treatment is a health care service covered by WorkplaceNL where the treatment is rendered by a chiropractor who is registered and in good standing with the Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Board. Chiropractic treatment is directed towards the examination, diagnosis and treatment, principally by hand, without the use of drugs or surgery, of the spinal column, pelvis, extremities, and associated tissues.

General

Coverage for Chiropractic Care

Chiropractors are considered primary care providers and can be selected by injured workers as their only or principal provider of care for their injury. Chiropractic care can also be provided on a referral basis, from another licensed health care practitioner.

Acute Care

For new injuries where chiropractic care is being obtained within one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of the injury, WorkplaceNL shall automatically approve payment for initial assessment and up to a maximum of fifteen (15) treatments, regardless of whether the claim has been accepted. Once treatment has commenced, it must be completed within ninety (90) days of the first treatment.

For recurrences, or for new injuries where chiropractic care is obtained beyond one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of the injury, prior approval for payment of chiropractic treatment must be obtained from WorkplaceNL. WorkplaceNL agrees to pay for the first assessment in this circumstance.

In all cases, any extension of chiropractic treatment beyond fifteen (15) treatments must be approved for payment by WorkplaceNL in accordance with the "Extensions" section below.

Extensions

WorkplaceNL may approve payment for extensions beyond the initial fifteen (15) treatments where evidence-based care has shown further objective functional improvement is achievable based on the worker's progress to date. WorkplaceNL's consultant may be consulted on extension requests. WorkplaceNL may approve

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payment for extensions for up to a maximum of fifteen (15) treatments per extension.

Supportive Care

Supportive care is care that:

1. is therapeutically necessary,
2. is provided to injured workers who have reached maximum medical improvement and have returned to work or are participating in a labor market re-entry program, and
3. is required because the worker fails to sustain his/her level of recovery and demonstrates progressive, objective deterioration with periodic withdrawal of treatment on a trial basis.

Supportive care follows appropriate application of passive and active care, including rehabilitation and lifestyle modifications. It is appropriate where alternate care options, including home-based self-care, have been considered or attempted.

Supportive care may be inappropriate where it interferes with other appropriate primary care or where the risk of supportive care outweighs its benefits.

Supportive care will only be covered in cases where WorkplaceNL's Chiropractic Consultant agrees that the worker has reached maximum medical improvement for the compensable injury and that there is objective evidence of progressive deterioration with periodic withdrawal of treatment.

When supportive care is covered, WorkplaceNL will generally cover a maximum of fifteen (15) treatments for a period of one year; however, additional treatments will be covered after re-evaluation where the worker continues to meet the above criteria.

Preventative/Maintenance Care

Preventative/Maintenance care is elective care that is chosen by the patient to prevent disease, prolong life, promote health and enhance quality of life. This elective care will not be covered by WorkplaceNL.

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Exceptional Circumstances

In cases where the individual circumstances of a case are such that the provisions of this policy cannot be applied or to do so would result in an unfair or unintended result, WorkplaceNL will decide the case based on its individual merits and justice. Such a decision will be considered for that specific case only and will not be precedent setting.

Fee Structure

Fees payable for chiropractic services will be in accordance with WorkplaceNL Procedure 75.00 – Chiropractic Services.

Reference: *Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act, (the Act) Sections 84 and 85.
Chiropractors Act, R.S.N. 1990, c. C-14
Procedure 75.00 – Chiropractic Services*

Amendment History

<i>Original Effective Date</i>	1994 01 26
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