



Legislative Fact Sheet

Modifying Coverage for Chiropractic Services in Minnesota's Medical Assistance Program

***HF 477 – Rep. Erin Koegel (DFL) District 37A
SF 569 – Sen. Paul Utke (R) District 02***

1. Chiropractic doctors provide physician-level, primary care services to patients with a wide range of health problems, 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, a **practice guideline** published by the **American College of Physicians** recommends the use of several **nonpharmacologic** treatment methods commonly employed by chiropractic doctors – including **spinal manipulation.**
4. When the following services are provided, the patient must either personally pay or the chiropractic doctor simply provides the service without charging the patient:
 - All clinically indicated physical examinations
 - Supervised, in-office rehabilitative exercises
 - Other non-manipulative and rehabilitative therapies

Although the latter is a great deal for the state, it does not promote access and equitable treatment of those enrolled in Minnesota's public health programs.

5. Medical Assistance patients seeing chiropractic doctors 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, physicians' assistants, nurse practitioners and physical therapists – and generally covered in commercial health insurance plans.
6. **There should be no barriers** preventing low-income Minnesotans to receive the full range of effective, conservative care provided by chiropractic doctors and there should be no discrimination in terms of either coverage for services or reimbursement based on the type of licensed healthcare provider.

Please support HF 477 and SF 569 by signing-on as a co-author.