

Care Redesign Spine Health Project:

Provider Informational Module “Tip Sheet”



Chiropractic Care

Overview

Chiropractors are designated as physicians within the limitations of their specialty and are most well-known for treatment of spinal conditions using manual methods, exercise and other instruction and the use of other methods to support treatment delivery. Evidence supports treatment of acute and chronic neck and back pain as well as neck related headaches and radicular complaints involving the extremities. Studies have supported the cost effectiveness of chiropractic care and the ability of chiropractic doctors to return patients to work sooner and to reduce the chances of the need for surgery.

How We Can Help

Chiropractors participate as frontline members of teams at Duke Health by providing effective care for patients with musculoskeletal conditions, primarily involving the spine. Chiropractors interact frequently with other health care providers to improve healthcare outcomes and guidelines, such as those published by the American College of Physicians and the American Pain Society, have endorsed methods used by chiropractors as a primary choice for reducing symptoms and improving function in patients with spine pain.

What is the Cost?

- Chiropractic care is covered by nearly all managed care, commercial insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, worker's compensation, and liability payers.
- As with most medical services, reimbursement varies from one policy to another, so it is important that the patient is aware of their responsibilities.
- Referring the patient to a Financial Care Counselor at Duke Health can be helpful when questions arise.



Refer a Patient

- A referral is not needed because chiropractors are direct-access providers.
- If a provider does wish to make a referral to a chiropractor, the referral order can be completed in MaestroCare /Duke MedLink by entering "chiropractic" into the ADD ORDER window on the lower left of the taskbar, selecting "enter," and then choosing "ambulatory referral to chiropractic."
- Chiropractors can independently order testing such as labs and imaging for nearly all patients. **If the referring provider is sending a patient covered by Medicaid or Medicare, we ask that any anticipated testing such as x-rays be ordered by the provider at the time of the referral.**

Scheduling an Appointment

- A patient can call the Orthopedic Department Scheduling Hub at **919-613-7797** or use Duke MyChart to self-schedule once a referral is made.

Please send questions or concerns to SpineHealth-Info@duke.edu.