



Chiropractic Care

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0052.1200

Recent review date: 01/2026

Next review date: 12/2026

AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.

In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including but not limited to Current Procedural Terminology (CPT); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM). Other factors that may affect payment include but are not limited to medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, and other policies. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.

This reimbursement policy applies to all healthcare services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, and, when specified, billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.

To the extent that any procedure and/or diagnosis codes are specified in this policy, such inclusion is provided for reference purposes only, may not be all inclusive, and is not intended to serve as billing instructions. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

Policy Overview

This policy provides an overview of reimbursement limitations for chiropractic services based on plan coverage. Chiropractic care provides members with services for manual manipulation of the spine to correct a dislocation that has resulted in a neuromusculoskeletal condition.

Exceptions

N/A

Reimbursement Guidelines

Chiropractic manipulation (CPT codes, 98940-98942) must be billed with a primary diagnosis of subluxation and a secondary diagnosis for the symptoms associated with the diagnosis of subluxation for reimbursement. The plan allows 20 visits per year for members 12 years and older with prior authorization. Beneficiaries with Medicaid for Pregnant Women coverage are eligible for chiropractic services, but prior approval is required. The plan allows 20 visits per year for members 12 years and older with prior authorization. Members under 12 years of age can be treated with an authorization for medical necessity under the EPSDT provision of Clinical Coverage Policy 1F - Chiropractic Services.

Diagnostic x-rays to determine the existence of a vertebral subluxation are eligible for reimbursement. AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina allows one set of x-rays of the spine per year.

CPT Code	Code Description
98940	Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMT); spinal, 1— 2 regions
98941	Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMT); spinal, 3— 4 regions
98942	Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMT); spinal, 5 regions

Chiropractic manipulative treatment codes (98940-98942) will be denied if billed more than one time per service date. Office visits are included as part of the service.

Definitions

Vertebral subluxation

One or more vertebrae in the spine become misaligned, compressing spinal nerves and disturbing optimal nerve function.

Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
- II. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)
- III. International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and associated publications and services.
- IV. Applicable AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina manual reference.
- V. Applicable North Carolina Medicaid Fee Schedule(s).
- VI. <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/chiropractic-services>
- VII. <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/1f-chiropractic-services/download?attachment>

Attachments

N/A

Associated Policies

N/A

Policy History

01/2026	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
12/2025	Annual review <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No revisions
06/2025	Minor updates to formatting and syntax
04/2025	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
04/2025	Revised preamble
03/2025	Annual review <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No major changes
03/2024	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
08/2023	Removal of policy implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina from Policy History section
01/2023	Template revised <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preamble revised• Applicable Claim Types table removed• Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines• Associated Policies section added