

Billing Guideline for Acupuncture Services—Medicaid

CHPW is excited to announce a new value-added benefit for CHPW Medicaid (Washington Apple Health and Integrated Managed Care) adult members (age 18 years and older)!

Effective June 1, 2019 for King County and August 1, 2019 for all other counties, CHPW will cover 6 acupuncture sessions per member per year for our eligible Washington Apple Health and Integrated Managed Care plan members. Behavioral Health Services Only (BHSO) plan members are not eligible for this acupuncture benefit.

Beginning August 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 eligible members (age 18 years and older) can receive up to 6 acupuncture visits. Next year, members can receive up to 6 visits from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Unused acupuncture visits do not rollover to the next calendar year.

Definition

Acupuncture: Technique for treating certain painful conditions and for producing regional anesthesia by passing long thin needles through the skin to specific points. (Source: MedCrave Group, <https://medcraveonline.com/IJCAM/IJCAM-10-00328>).

Requirements

CHPW follows the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) manual for this benefit. We will allow coverage of the acupuncture codes/services listed below for eligible adult members age 18 years and older. Any one of these services or combination of these services is a session. A session is defined by date of service.

A referral is not required for this benefit. Members simply need to show the acupuncturist their current CHPW member ID card. A diagnosis of chronic pain or opioid use disorder is not required for the member to be covered for this benefit for the first 6 visits.

Providers must be in-network, state-licensed acupuncturists or naturopaths. Naturopaths must have a dual license (one of which is in acupuncture) to be part of the CHPW acupuncture network. Chiropractors are not covered. Claims from non-contracted providers will be denied. Any other services/codes by an acupuncturist, including evaluation and management services (E&M codes), are not covered by the new benefit. Nutritional supplements, herbs, vitamins and other services are also not covered by the new acupuncture benefit.

In cases where a diagnosis of chronic pain or opioid use disorder exists, additional visits beyond the first 6 visits may be necessary. In these instances, a CHPW prior authorization will need to be requested and approved prior to rendering any additional visits. The prior authorization request should be submitted to CHPW's Utilization Management department and is known as a "Limit Extension."

The four CPT codes specified below are the only CPT codes covered by CHPW under the new acupuncture benefit for eligible CHPW members.

CPT Codes

97810: Acupuncture, 1 or more needles; without electrical stimulation, **initial 15 minutes** of personal one-on-one contact with the patient.

- The cost of needles is not covered separately.
- Refer to the CPT manual for any required modifiers.

97811: Acupuncture, 1 or more needles; without electrical stimulation, **each additional 15 minutes** of personal one-on-one contact with the patient, with re-insertion of the needle(s) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure).

- The cost of needles is not covered separately.
- Refer to the CPT manual for any required modifiers.
- This is an add-on code. This contact with the patient must include an additional insertion of a new needle(s).

97813: Acupuncture, 1 or more needles; with electrical stimulation, **initial 15 minutes** of personal one-on-one contact with the patient.

- The cost of needles is not covered separately.
- Refer to the CPT manual for any required modifiers.

97814: Acupuncture, 1 or more needles; with electrical stimulation, **each additional 15 minutes** of personal one-on-one contact with the patient, with re-insertion of needle(s) (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure).

- The cost of needles is not covered separately.
- Refer to the CPT manual for any required modifiers.
- This is an add-on code. This contact with the patient must include an additional insertion of a new needle(s).

Resources

You and your patients can search CHPW's online directory to find an in-network acupuncturist; contact our Customer Service Team if an in-network acupuncturist is not found in the directory (see the "Questions" section below for contact information).

- Apple Health/Medicaid members can go to <https://www.chpw.org/provider-search/>
- Medicare members can go to <https://healthfirst.chpw.org/find-a-doctor/>

Some of our community health centers (CHCs), including HealthPoint, Unity Care NW, and International Community Health Services (ICHS), offer acupuncture services.

Please refer to the AMA CPT Manual, <https://www.ama-assn.org/amaone/cpt-current-procedural-terminology>, for more information about coding and billing acupuncture services.

Questions?

Our Customer Service Team is ready to help with any questions that you or your patient may have. You can reach them by email at customercare@chpw.org or at the phone number below during business hours.

Apple Health/Integrated Managed Care/Medicaid members

- Phone number: 1-800-440-1561
- Business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.