



Chiropractic and Medicaid in Illinois

Background Information

Chiropractic services used to be covered under the Medicaid program. At the time, providers were reimbursed approximately \$8.67 a visit from Medicaid and a \$2 co-payment was provided by the patient. The services were eligible for a 50% federal match. The actual cost to the State was only \$4.34 a visit. In 2012, adult chiropractic services were removed as an eligible covered service under the SMART Act.

The Issue

Chiropractic services are a low-cost, natural, and effective solution for healthcare. The outline below describes current coverage for children and adults under the Medicaid Program:

- **Coverage for Children:** The services of chiropractic physicians are only covered under Medicaid for children under the age of 18, and then only one spinal adjustment is covered.
- **Coverage for Adults:** Currently, adult chiropractic care is not covered under the Medicaid program. Adult chiropractic was removed as part of the 2012 Medicaid Reforms. At the time, Medicaid was only covering one spinal adjustment. Chiropractic physicians were only being paid \$8.67 + a \$2.00 co-payment for an adjustment.

Legislative Recommended Action

ICS is advocating for the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to recognize chiropractic physicians as Medicaid providers for services they are licensed to do as full physicians under the Medical Practice Act of 1987. Allowing a chiropractic physician to become a Medicaid provider would allow for better patient choice and more cost-effective choices.

- **Patient Choice:** This would allow Medicaid patients the ability to see a chiropractic care physician for their healthcare. Currently, a Medicaid recipient cannot make that choice.
- **Cost-Savings:** Including chiropractic physicians in the adult Medicaid system would result in significant cost savings by diverting some patients, particularly those with back pain, from costly surgery and medication. In addition, the wisdom of using non-narcotic treatment is obvious in the face of the well-publicized opioid addiction epidemic.

We ask that you support chiropractic physicians to be providers under the Medicaid program.