

Chiropractic Coding & Compliance Alert

Reader Question: Billing Medicare for Manual Devices

Question: I often use my hand held manual device to provide the manipulative thrust in a precise and controlled manner. How do I bill for the reimbursement for this added service?

Mississippi Subscriber

Answer: The Medicare Carrier Manual refers to manipulation as "Chiropractic service specifically limited to treatment by means of manual manipulation, i.e., by use of hands." It goes on to say that some chiropractors do use hand held devices to assist themselves, but Medicare would not permit additional payment for the use of such equipments. It specifically covers manual manipulation performed by chiropractor with his own hands. Although not covered by Medicare, the use of hand held devices is popular as it protects your own joints from a "burn out," letting you work longer, and thereby helping you prosper indirectly.