

**Wellness Chiropractic**  
**20 East Blue Hill Road, P.O. Box 326**  
**Blue Hill, ME 04614**

**~ATTENTION ALL MEDICARE PATIENTS~**

As you are all aware, the health care system is rapidly changing in our country. It is our goal to keep everyone updated as to what that means to you as a patient at Wellness Chiropractic. Please let us know immediately if your Medicare information has changed in the new year.

**GOOD NEWS!**

Medicare is still likely to cover at least some of your chiropractic care. However, Medicare ONLY covers the cost of the chiropractic adjustments designed to help correct vertebral subluxation. This is when bones of the spinal column lose their normal motion and position, which results in symptoms and functional limitations.

**THE EXAMINATION**

An examination is necessary to identify the presence of vertebral subluxation and Medicare does require this exam; however, Medicare does not pay for the cost of the exam or any needed X-rays. If you have an exacerbation of your current condition or a new condition arises, please let us know when you schedule because an updated exam will be necessary.

**MEDICAL NECESSITY**

For Medicare to pay for your adjustments, they must be "medically necessary." That means:

1. Your adjustments must relate directly to your specific health complaint,
2. Your adjustments must hold the promise of making functional improvements, and
3. You must follow your chiropractor's specific plan for active treatment.

**FUNCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT**

Instead of judging your progress simply by how you feel, Medicare wants to see improved function. That means a restored ability to turn, bend, walk, sleep and generally perform your daily activities. We will ask you questions about these activities and ask you to fill out a form to keep track of your progress.

Once improvement stops, Medicare coverage stops. That's because they consider further care to be maintenance care and expect you to self-pay.

**MAINTENANCE CARE**

Medicare does not pay for chiropractic care to maintain your progress or help prevent problems. While most patients see the wisdom of some type of wellness care, Medicare does not pay for it. Recognizing the value of protecting their improvement, many opt to self-pay.

**EXCLUDED SERVICES**

We only recommend the care that is clinically appropriate. That might include other procedures such as exercise therapy or rapid release therapy (RRT). Medicare does not pay for these, nor do they pay for adjustments to your wrist, ankle or other extremity.

We look forward to showing you ways to get well and stay well. Naturally. Without drugs or surgery.