



## Chiropractic Care II Pilot Study

FOCUS STUDY, FY2023Q4

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### CHIROPRACTIC CARE II PILOT STUDY

- **Purpose:** To assess the treatments and documentation of Chiropractic care in the veteran population
- **Sample:** Study sponsors indicated that 72 VAMCs will be used.
  - Estimated total sample size is 200 records (1-4 records/facility).
- The study timeframe is FY2023 (10/01/2022 to 12/31/2022 for the Index Visit to occur).



### Overview of Tool

- Contains 97 questions
  - Will only answer questions applicable for each case
- The first set of questions (Q1-7) pertain to the Index Visit with a Chiropractor
- In addition the index visit questions include:
  - Determining Missed Appointments Q8-9
  - Identifying the chief complaint, length of complaint, acuity of complaint, required follow-up visits, frequency of follow-up visits, and total number of additional visits that occurred during the study period Q10-16
- The remaining questions (Q17-97) pertain to follow-up visits
  - There are nine (9) questions for each follow-up visit
  - Up to 9 follow-up visits will be reviewed
- Questions 17-25 pertain to the Second Visit, questions 26-34 pertain to the third visit, questions 35-43 pertain to the fourth visit, questions 44-52 pertain to the fifth visit, questions 53-61 pertain to the sixth visit, questions 62-70 pertain to the seventh visit, questions 71-79 pertain to the eighth visit, questions 80-88 pertain to the ninth visit, and questions 89-97



## Index Encounter & Chiropractic Diagnosis

- **Computer will pre-fill:**
  - **(Q1) indchirodt:** The date of the index encounter with a Chiropractor during FY2022 during the timeframe that will be validated in **(Q2) valchirdt.**
  - **(Q3) indexicd:** The primary and other Chiropractic ICD-10-CM diagnosis code documented in the record for the index encounter is pre-filled **and cannot be modified.**
  - **(Q4) chircpt:** The Chiropractic CPT codes documented in the record for the index encounter will be pre-filled **and cannot be modified.**
- **(Q5) indchirdt2:** If the pre-filled encounter date is not the correct date, you will enter the earliest encounter date found during the study timeframe 10/01/2022 to 12/31/2022
  - If there is no Chiropractic visit during the study timeframe, enter 99/99/9999 and the case will be excluded
- **(Q6) ind2dxc:** enter all the ICD-10-CM Chiropractic diagnosis code(s) documented on that encounter date
- **(Q7) ind2cpt:** enter all of the CPT code(s) documented on that encounter date.



## Missed Opportunities

- **(8) missapt:** Select value “1” if interruptions to the chiropractic appointments during the specified period are identified.
- Review the clinic appointment information in Clinical Reports→Visits/Admissions→Past Clinic Visits or Patient Care Encounters→Past Clinic Visits
  - Clinic cancelled the visit
  - Patient cancelled the visit
  - Patient did not show for the visit



## Missed Opportunity Reasons and Quantities

- **(9) misapt and numiss:** Review the clinic appointment information in Clinical Reports→Visits/Admissions→Past Clinic Visits or Patient Care Encounters→Past Clinic Visits to determine the reason for any missed appointment(s) and the total number of the appointments missed for each reason during the specified period.
  - For Example, Past Clinic Visits shows that two (2) appointments were canceled by the patient. Select value “1” for MISAPT1 and value “2” for NUMISS1.
  - If appointments were not canceled for the specified reason, select value “2” for the correlating MISAPT reason. For example, review of past Clinic Visits does not show any appointments were canceled by the patient, select value “2” for MISAPT1.

Reason	1,2 If any misapt, 1, or 2 = 2, numiss respective number, 1, or 2 = 95	Number of missed appointments 1,2,3,4,5,95 Will be same-filled as 95 if respective misapt, 1, 2, or 3 = 2
1. Appointment canceled by patient	1. Yes 2. No 3. I	1. 1 2. 2 3. 3 4. 4 5. 5 or more 95. Not applicable
2. Appointment canceled by clinic	1. Yes 2. No	1. 1 2. 2 3. 3 4. 4 5. 5 or more 95. Not applicable
3. Patient was a no show	1. Yes 2. No	1. 1 2. 2 3. 3 4. 4 5. 5 or more 95. Not applicable



## Chief Complaint or Working Differential Diagnosis/Impression

- **(Q10) chiefcplt:** Select ALL THAT APPLY of the following values that are documented by the Chiropractor as the primary complaint or working/differential diagnosis/impression within the note on date displayed in the question:
  1. General low back (eg, lumbar, coccyx, pelvic, sacral, sacroiliac) pain
  2. Low back pain (LBP) with radiculopathy (radiating pain)
  3. Neck (cervical) pain
  4. Neck (cervical) pain with radiculopathy (radiating pain)
  5. Thoracic pain
  6. Headache
  7. Upper extremity (arm) pain or condition
  8. Lower extremity (leg) pain or condition
  9. Generalized syndrome
  10. Other impression documented
  99. No working/differential diagnosis/impression documented in the Chiropractor's note.
  - For example, "patient with complaint of neck pain and low back", select value "1" and "3"
- Select value "10" if any other working/differential diagnosis/impression not listed above is documented in the Chiropractor's note.
- Select value "99" if NO diagnosis/impression is documented.
- Cannot select value "99" with other values.



## Chief Complaint

**(11) ccpltm:** Choose the best response for the length of time the Chiropractor documented for the chief complaint.

- Calculate the length of time into the corresponding weeks, months, or years.
  1. Less than 4 weeks
  2. 4 to 12 weeks
  3. Greater than 12 weeks to 1 year
  4. Greater than 1 year to 5 years
  5. Greater than 5 years
  99. Length of time not documented.

Example #1: If patient presents to clinic and states, "My back has been hurting for the past 6 weeks", select value "2"

Example #2: If patient presents to the clinic and states, "My back has been hurting for the past 2 years, but it's been worse for the past 2 weeks", select value "4"

**(12) ccsymdur:** Review the documentation in the Chiropractor's note to determine the acuity of the patient's chief complaint (condition for which the patient is primarily being seen).

- Acuity of the primary condition may be described as
  1. Acute
  2. Sub-Acute
  3. Chronic
  99. None of the above (if acuity is not determined)

If the acuity category (ie, acute, subacute, or chronic) is not documented, select value 99



## Required Additional Visits

**(13) txplanvisit:** Choose the appropriate answer to correspond with the total count of required additional visits specified in the treatment plan documented by the Chiropractor.

- 1.1
- 2.2
- 3.3
- 4.4
- 5.5
- 6.6
- 7.7 - 10
- 8.11 or greater
9. Documented no additional visits needed
10. Number of additional visits not documented

Example: Chiropractor notes that the patient is to return for 4 follow-up visits every 2 weeks; Select value, "4"



## Follow-Up Frequency

- **(14) nextvis:** Review the encounter note to identify the frequency in which the follow-up visits were stated to occur.

1. Weekly
2. Every 2 weeks
3. Every 3-4 weeks
4. Greater than 1 and less than 2 months
5. Greater than 2 months to 6 months
6. Greater than 6 months
7. Combination of frequencies
99. Not specified /unclear

Example #1: Chiropractor notes patient is to return to Chiropractic Clinic every week for 4 weeks, select value "1"

Example #2: If provider documents more than one desired frequency such as: "1x per week for 2 visits, then 1x every 2 weeks for 2 more visits," select value 7.




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## First Follow-Up

- **(15) folneed:** Review the encounter note on the specified date to identify when the first follow-up visit was to occur.

1. Within 1 week
2. Greater than 1 week to 2 weeks
3. Greater than 2 weeks to 3 weeks
4. Greater than 3 weeks to 4 weeks
5. Greater than 1 month to 2 months
6. Greater than 2 months to 3 months
7. Greater than 3 months to 6 months
8. Greater than 6 months
99. Not specified/unclear

Example: "Patient is to return in 2 weeks", select value "2"




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## Total Number of Additional Visits

- **(16) totaddvis:** Review all scheduled visits that occurred after the Index Visit Encounter and up to 6 months after the Index Visit Encounter.

➤ Do not count the Index Encounter Visit in the total number of additional Chiropractic Visits.

- Enter the total number of Chiropractic encounters documented within the time frame. If there are no additional visits, you will go to the end.

Example:

Index Encounter: 11/01/2022

Encounter # 2: 11/06/2022

Encounter # 3: 11/09/2022

Total Visits: 2




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## Total Number Abstraction Guidelines

If the patient has greater than 10 visits during the time frame specified in question TOTADDVIS, review the first six (6) visits and the last three (3) visits for the following questions.

Example:

Index Encounter: 11/01/2022

Encounter # 2: 11/06/2022

Encounter # 4: 11/12/2022

Encounter # 6: 11/16/2022

Encounter # 8: 11/28/2022

Encounter # 10: 12/05/2022

Encounter # 12: 12/15/2022

Total Visits: 12

Will use: Encounters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13

Encounter # 3: 11/09/2022

Encounter # 5: 11/14/2022

Encounter # 7: 11/20/2022

Encounter # 9: 12/01/2022

Encounter # 11: 12/10/2022

Encounter # 13: 12/19/2022



## Second Visit

- **(17) chirvst2dt:** Enter the date of the second visit with a Chiropractor at this VAMC during the specified time frame. (One day after the Index visit through 6 months)

mm/dd/yyyy

- **(18) chir2iad:** Enter all of the ICD-10-CM Chiropractic diagnosis code(s) documented in the medical record for the Chiropractic the specified date.

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(3 alpha-numeric characters/decimal point/four alpha-numeric characters)

- **(19) chir2cpt:** Enter the CPT codes documented in the record for the Chiropractic encounter on the specified date. If no Chiropractic CPT codes are documented in the medical record on the date of the encounter, add xxxxx.

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(5 alpha-numeric or numeric characters)

May enter up to four codes.



## Second Visit Outcome

- **(20) chirotc2:** Review the Chiropractor's documentation to determine the overall outcome to care for the second chiropractic visit.

- 1. Overall favorable (reports of patient pain decrease, functional increase, satisfaction, or other.)
- 2. Overall no change
- 3. Overall worsened
- 4. Overall mixed (reporting improvement and others worsening with no clear overall direction)
- 99. No outcome of care documented or unable to determine.

The pain scale can be used to determine the outcome if it clearly shows a change in the number and the change is documented in the note on the date of the encounter.



## Second Visit Re-Examination

### (21) chirex2:

Did the Chiropractor document that a re-examination was performed?

1. Yes
2. No

- Read the Chiropractor's note on the date specified and if at least three (3) or more of the below are documented, a re-examination has occurred:
  - Time spent in medical decision making
  - Orthopedic tests (examples could include straight leg raise, Spurling's Test, Jackson's compression test, etc.)
  - Neurologic tests (reflexes, myotomes, dermatomes)
  - Observation of patient (ROM/gait analysis/posture)
  - Functional assessment (back extension/Sorensen Test/Functional Movement Screen/dynamometer strength testing)
  - Manual assessment (joint and/or soft tissue palpation or assessment)



## Second Visit Plan of Care

### (22) chircg2:

During the specified encounter, did the Chiropractor document a change in the plan for the frequency or scheduling of additional visits?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not applicable because treatment plan was not documented.

A change in the Chiropractor's plan of care may include:

- Change in number of visits
- Change in the timeframe in which these visits will occur (days, weeks, months).

**Example:** Previous note states, "trial of chiropractic care once a week for 4 weeks." NEW plan on this date states, "patient responding well to care, patient will return in 3 weeks."

In order to answer this question, please compare the overall planned visit number and scheduling frequency with the previous note. The intent of this question is to determine if there was any significant change in the total number of visits stated to be needed, and/or the time frame in which those visits should occur.

If any change in number of visits or time frame in which visits were set to occur is documented, select value 1.

If value "2" or "3" selected, go to chirstom2.



## Second Visit Reason for Change

### (23) chgreas2:

During specified encounter, what reason for the change in the plan for frequency or scheduling of additional visits was documented by the Chiropractor?

1. Resolution or substantial improvement of initial complaint
2. Maximum medical benefit reached
3. No improvement of initial complaint
4. Worsening of initial complaint
5. Non-clinical reasons
99. Not documented / unclear

**Example:** Chiropractor specified in the index visit that they would like to see the patient for the next 4 to 5 weeks; however, at the end of the second visit the Chiropractor discharged the patient due to resolution of complaint. Select value "1"



## Second Visit Outcome

- **(24) chrvstcom2:** During the specified encounter, did the Chiropractor document that the episode of care for the patient was completed?

1. Yes, resolution or substantial improvement of complaint
2. Yes, maximum medical benefit reached
3. Yes, no improvement of complaint
4. Yes, worsening of complaint
5. Yes, non-clinical reasons
6. No documentation that the episode of care was completed

- The intent of this question is to determine if there is documentation by the Chiropractor that the planned episode of care was completed at this encounter. If there is no documentation by the Chiropractor that the episode of care was completed at this encounter [select value "6" and go to chrvst3dt](#) (Third Visit Series).



## Chiropractor's Documentation Regarding Disposition of Patient's Case

- **(25) disp2case:** At the end of the specified encounter, what did the Chiropractor document regarding disposition of the patient's care?

— **Select all that apply:**

1. Patient recommended to see primary care
2. Patient referred to another provider
3. Patient recommended to return to chiropractic clinic PRN(as needed)
99. None of the above

- Review the Chiropractor's note on the specified date for documentation regarding disposition of the patient's case.  
Example: Chiropractor notes, "Patient's low back pain has resolved. Recommended patient to return to chiropractic clinic as needed."  
Select value, "3"



## Third through Tenth Visit

- Questions 26-97 are potential follow-up questions to represent the Third Visit through the Tenth Visit that mirrors the Second Visit set of questions.
- At the end of each visit set, if there are no additional visits, the skip will go to the end; otherwise proceed to the next set of visit questions.



## Summary

- Study purpose is to gather data for current follow-up trends in the Chiropractic practices within the VAMCs
- No DACs or Exit reports
- Please submit any questions to Robin Taylor using the Question and Answer HUB
- Estimated pull list date 10/17/2023
- Estimated abstraction completion by 11/14/23



*Thank You!!*

