

## **COVID-19 Billing/Coding Update:**

CMS announced that Providers can submit CPT 99201-99215 when providing these services remotely. Providers can be in any location and the patient can be in any location.

Place of Service Code "02" – Telehealth - The location where health services and health related services are provided or received, through a telecommunication system

These are some of the guidelines:

- Must use a communication tool that has interactive audio and video.
- Communication tool must allow real-time communication (FaceTime, Skype, etc.).
- HIPAA guidance does not apply as long as service is provided in good faith.
- No modifiers needed.

Providers have the options for Phone E/M & Online Digital E/M, but often not reimbursed.

## **COVID-19 Verbiage Update: (copy to QCode/Button/Barcode as needed)**

[CR]The Patient was seen today remotely via Telehealth, real-time 2-way video chat.

[CR]The Patient was spoken to today by phone.

[CR]While spinal adjustments are effective for a number of conditions, there is no quality evidence to support that they can improve immunity to COVID-19.

[CR]There is no credible scientific evidence that chiropractic spinal adjustment/manipulation confers or boosts immunity. Chiropractors should refrain from any communication that suggests spinal adjustment/manipulation may protect patients from contracting COVID-19 or will enhance their recovery. Doing otherwise is potentially dangerous to public health.

[CR]Doctors provide essential care and provide needed service during a healthcare crisis.

[CR]Due to the Coronavirus some patients have been non-compliant for their prescribed treatment protocol. Whether they have actually contracted the virus, have co-morbidities (age, respiratory, cardiac), self-quarantined or are geographically isolated, they have not presented for treatment. This understandable "gap in treatment" will be an atypical circumstance.

[CR]Providers must comply fully with all government directives in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, which may include ceasing the provision of direct-contact patient care.

[CR]COVID-19 may be transmitted from person to person and may be contracted from surfaces on which the virus is deposited. Where they are continuing to provide essential services to patients, it is of critical importance that Providers, Staff and Patients at the office are scrupulous about personal and clinic hygiene, including the practice of hand washing, respiratory etiquette, physical distancing, sanitization of all equipment and surfaces and appropriate use of personal and protective equipment.

## Screening your Patients:

**>>Ask every patient if they have recently experienced any of the following symptoms:**

- Coughing
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle Pain or Body Aches
- Sore Throat
- Loss of Taste or Loss of Smell

**>>Ask every patient the following questions:**

- Have you been in contact with someone with diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Have you traveled or been in contact with someone that has travelled outside the country within the last 14 days?

**>>You may also take your patient's temperatures to make sure there is no fever present.**

## Documenting the verbal screening procedure for your patient:

"The patient was verbally screened today for COVID-19 symptoms and [SEXO] [LNAME] denies any recent history of coughing, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, body aches, sore throat, or sudden loss of taste or smell. [SEXO] [PNAME] has not traveled out of the country in the last 14 days, and has not been in contact with someone who has. [FNAME] denies any close contact with anyone in the last 14 days with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis."

## **COVID-19 Notice from the American Chiropractic Association (ACA):**

### **Not Business as Usual: A Safe, Responsible Response to COVID-19**

Doctors of chiropractic are primary contact healthcare providers who provide essential care, including, but not limited to, managing acute and urgent musculoskeletal conditions. These services are critical for helping triage and manage cases that otherwise may end up in emergency rooms. Chiropractic helps keep healthcare providers, first responders and critical infrastructure in place, including transportation that supports healthcare and food supplies during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Chiropractic clinics share the public health responsibility of slowing the transmission of COVID-19. Practices that attend to urgent cases must employ strict hygienic practices at every point of patient contact and keep up to date with prevention recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We urge everyone to closely monitor state and local health authorities and to comply with any relevant guidance or mandates.

The American Chiropractic Association (ACA) is working to coordinate information and guidance from multiple credible sources and partners for use by doctors of chiropractic and their clinics throughout the country, while also monitoring communications channels and providing the public with reliable information about chiropractic care. We are committed to responding to misinformation that may cause confusion. For example, some claims are being made that spinal adjustments can boost immunity and decrease the risk of contracting COVID-19. While spinal adjustments are effective for a number of conditions, there is no quality evidence to support that they can improve immunity to COVID-19.

It is ACA's mission to inspire and empower our members to elevate the health and wellness of their communities. Some ACA members are using telehealth, phone consultations and other technologies to provide health care advice to patients in lieu of in-person visits. We encourage our members to visit MyACA, ACA's online member forum, to share their ideas and experiences. In difficult times such as now, it is powerful to have this community of peers working together to protect and serve our patients, staff, families and our communities in the best and most responsible manner possible.

Please continue to visit [acatoday.org](http://acatoday.org) and [HandsDownBetter.org](http://HandsDownBetter.org) as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,

ACA Board of Governors