

CBR202301: Chiropractic Manipulative Treatment (CMT) of the Spine

Guidance and Considerations



Caution

As you perform your internal compliance reviews, keep the following in mind:

Chiropractic services are vulnerable to improper payments, particularly as the result of insufficient documentation and medical necessity errors.

Source: [2022 Medicare Fee-for-Service Supplemental Improper Payment Data](#). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CMS.gov.



Review

Review encounter documentation and choose your code carefully, according to the service provided to the patient and the services documented for the encounter. Remember, if it was not documented, it was not done!



Implement: CMT of the Spine

Help reduce the possibility of improper payments by taking the following actions:

- Perform CMT appropriate to each patient's clinical care and medical necessity
- Confirm the correct use of modifier AT (i.e., for acute and active treatment)
- Review Current Procedural Terminology® (CPT®) codes and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) modifiers to ensure correct code assignment
- Perform regular internal reviews of documentation and code selection to ensure accuracy and compliance