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Provider Notification Update

Date of Notification	6/25/09
Plans Affected	Mercy Care Advantage
Subject	Chiropractic Manipulative Treatment and the AT Modifier

Mercy Care Plan would like to provide clarification regarding chiropractic billing under the Mercy Care Advantage line of business for the following CPT codes and the following modifier:

- 98940 – Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMF); spinal, 1-2 regions
- 98941 – Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMF); spinal, 3-4 regions
- 98942 – Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMF); spinal 5 regions

AT – Acute treatment

According to the **Chiropractic Services Billing Guide, June 2008** published by CMS, it states:

“Enter the most appropriate CPT code that best describes the service
98940 – Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMF); spinal, 1-2 regions
98941 – Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMF); spinal, 3-4 regions
98942 – Chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMF); spinal 5 regions

Use of these codes must indicate treatment of appropriate number of regions involved and not the number of the vertebral joints. Thus, CPT Code 98940 will involve one or two regions (i.e., 4th & 5th cervical and/or 3rd & 4th thoracic) and not one or two vertebral joints (i.e., 2nd & 3rd cervical and/or 4th & 5th cervical).

When acute or chronic active/corrective treatment to Medicare patients is provided, modifier AT must be added to CPT code 98940, 98941 or 98942. If this modifier is not used, the claim will be considered maintenance therapy and services will be denied. Maintenance chiropractic therapy is not medically reasonable or necessary under Medicare.”

Mercy Care Advantage will deny the above CPT codes if not billed with an AT modifier, as they will be considered maintenance therapy.