Subject: Acupuncture*

Updated: February 23, 2010

Department(s): Utilization Management

Policy: Acupuncture is reimbursable under Plans administered by QualCare, Inc. for specific indications delineated in this policy.

Objective: To provide proper and consistent reimbursement and to define the indications for a specific type of therapy.

Procedure:

1. Acupuncture is reimbursable only when provided by an individual licensed as an acupuncturist in the State in which he/she practices.

2. Conditions for which acupuncture is reimbursable include, but are not limited to, the following:
   
   a. Postoperative nausea and/or vomiting
   b. Post-chemotherapy nausea and/or vomiting
   c. Postoperative pain
   d. Musculoskeletal pain
   e. Pain caused by local or metastatic malignancy
   f. Headache
   g. As part or all of the anesthesia administered in connection with surgical procedure(s)

3. Unless it is specifically mentioned as covered, in the individual Summary Plan Description (SPD) for fibromyalgia, myofascial pain, addictive behavior(s), substance abuse, smoking cessation, and/or obesity,
acupuncture is NOT reimbursable when used to treat or manage any of these conditions.

4. If an evaluation and management (E & M) service is rendered on the same date as an acupuncture treatment, this must be indicated by the use of modifier -25.

References


New Jersey Permanent Statutes. Title 45 Professions and Occupations. 45:2C-1 – 45:2C-9 (Acupuncture) accessed at: http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=401323&Depth=4&TD=WRAP&advquery=acupuncture&headingswithhits=on&infobase=statutes.nfo&rank=&record={9ECC}&softpage=Doc Frame Pg42&wordsaroundhits=2&x=45&y=8&zz= accessed 01/08/06


Nasir LS. Acupuncture. *Prim Care* 2002;29(2):393-405 (Jun)


*Consistent with Summary Plan Description (SPD). When there is discordance between this policy and the SPD, the provisions of the SPD prevail.*