

Chiropractic Care Saves Money

As healthcare costs rise, many people are searching for the best value for their money.

Do you know what the research shows?

- Chiropractic users have substantially lower total health care costs.
- Chiropractic care reduces the use of both physician and hospital care.
- Chiropractic care reduces the need for prescription pharmaceuticals.

Chiropractic patients experienced 50% fewer medical provider visits of than their peers and spent only 31% of the national average for health services. This was discovered in a Landmark study conducted by Dr. Ron Rupert and his team at Parker College. The study surveyed 311 chiropractic patients, aged 65 years and older, who had received chiropractic care for 5 years or longer. Despite similar health status, chiropractic patients receiving "maintenance or wellness care" for five years or longer, when compared with US citizens of the same age, spent only 31% of the national average for health care services. The chiropractic patients also experienced 50% fewer medical provider visits than their comparable peers.

Health plans that included a chiropractic benefit had 31 percent fewer back surgeries and 15 percent lower per capita hospital costs. The study, reported in the American Medical Association's journal, compared 700,000 health plan members with chiropractic benefits to 1 million members without chiropractic benefits in California, and showed that overall health care expenditures were lower in the group with chiropractic coverage. Source: Archives of Internal Medicine, October 2004.

Clients with primary chiropractic care had 60% fewer hospitalizations, 62% fewer surgeries and used 85% fewer pharmaceuticals than HMO clients who received traditional medical care. A study in the 5/07 issue of the Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics tracked data from a unique Independent Physicians Association (IPA) where chiropractors serve as first-contact, primary care physicians. The report analyzes data from 2003-2005 and found that clients visiting chiropractors had 60% fewer hospitalizations, 62% fewer surgeries and used 85% fewer pharmaceuticals than HMO clients who received traditional medical care. In addition, clients reported on the quality of care they received through the use of annual patient satisfaction surveys. During the 3 years of data, clients demonstrated a high degree of satisfaction with their care (96%, 94% and 91%, respectively).



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"Chiropractic users tend to have substantially lower total health care costs," and "chiropractic care reduces the use of both physician and hospital care." were the conclusions of a 1992 review of data from over 2,000,000 users of chiropractic care in the U.S., reported in the Journal of American Health Policy.

Chiropractic care demonstrated decreases of 60.2% in-hospital admissions, 59.0% hospital days, 62.0% outpatient surgeries and procedures, and 83% pharmaceutical costs. A study in 2007 compared care costs of a patient under the direction of a chiropractor as their primary care physician (PCP) versus a medical doctor. After 70,000 member-months spanning a 7-year period, hospital admission costs were decreased by 60.2 percent, cost of days spent in the hospital were decreased by 59.0 percent, and outpatient surgeries and procedures were down by 62.0 percent. If these numbers were not astonishing enough, the costs associated with pharmaceuticals decreased by 85 percent when compared to conventional medically driven care. J Manipulative Physiol Ther 2007 (May); 30 (4): 263–269

Chiropractic patients saved over \$1000 per patient during a two-year study. Oakland University's Stano Cost Comparison Study of 395,641 patients with one or more of 493 neuro-musculoskeletal conditions was undertaken to compare the health care costs of patients who have received chiropractic treatment to those treated solely by medical or osteopathic physicians. The results showed that patients receiving chiropractic care experienced significantly lower health care costs.

1.5% of workers who saw a chiropractor first for work-related back pain review later had surgery, compared to 42.7% of those who first saw a surgeon. This was noted in a 2012 systematic review of Washington state workers. It found spinal manipulation was cost-effective for neck and back pain, used either alone or combined with other therapies. Immediate access to chiropractic care after an injury results in the most effective outcome, medically and financially. A peer-reviewed article in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, January 2004, stated: ". . . We found that patients who were seen by chiropractors during the initial episode of care were less likely to have a surgery, and had a shorter average duration of the initial episode."

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