

UnitedHealthcare Chiropractic Services Policy Update

In September of 2007 UnitedHealthcare issued a revised medical policy on Chiropractic Services. This policy stated that spinal manipulative treatment for headaches and for pediatric patients was unproven and therefore not a covered service. As announced in October, the ACN Group Chiropractic Professional Advisory Committee (CPAC) has facilitated the collection of input from the chiropractic professional community regarding this revised policy. As a result of this interaction, UnitedHealthcare will not proceed with the chiropractic services policy change announced in the September 2007 UnitedHealthcare Network Bulletin.

Both UnitedHealthcare and ACN Group value and respect collegial input into the scientific and clinical evidence foundations of our policies and clinical programs. The work of the past couple of months, coupled with the normal business practice of the UnitedHealthcare Medical Technology Assessment Committee to conduct an annual review of all medical policies, has created an opportunity for the chiropractic profession to provide ongoing input into the UnitedHealthcare Chiropractic Services policy. Over the next several months the ACN CPAC will develop and execute a structured process to:

- Distribute the UnitedHealthcare Chiropractic Services policy

- Review the medical policy content of the UnitedHealthcare Chiropractic Services policy

- Obtain feedback from the chiropractic profession regarding the UnitedHealthcare Chiropractic Services policy

- Compile additional clinical evidence and develop recommendations that will be forwarded to UnitedHealthcare

Additional information regarding the process that will be used to conduct this review of the UnitedHealthcare Chiropractic Services policy will be distributed by ACN Group in the next few weeks.

Finally, UnitedHealthcare has invited ACN Group to participate on the UnitedHealthcare Medical Technology Assessment Committee as a voting member. This will provide ACN Group with the opportunity to review the clinical evidence supporting technologies and procedures, and approve medical policies for use by UnitedHealthcare. Using a process similar to that described above, the ACN CPAC will obtain input from the chiropractic profession regarding any proposed medical policy changes impacting the chiropractic profession and will provide this feedback to UnitedHealthcare.

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