

Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD)

Topic: Acupuncture for Chronic Low Back Pain

Decision: CMS will cover acupuncture under certain conditions.

What this means: Effective for services performed on or after January, 21, 2020, CMS will cover acupuncture for Medicare patients with chronic Lower Back Pain (cLBP.) Up to 12 visits in 90 days are covered for Medicare beneficiaries under the following circumstance:

- For the purpose of this decision, cLBP is defined as:
 - Lasting 12 weeks or longer;
 - nonspecific, in that it has no identifiable systemic cause (i.e., not associated with metastatic, inflammatory, infectious, etc.disease);
 - not associated with surgery;and,
 - not associated with pregnancy.

For more information, contact Customer Service at the number listed on your ID card.

This announcement can be found at:

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/r10128NCD.pdf>

Effective date: January 21, 2020