



Subject: Acupuncture*

Effective Date: July 28, 1998

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, and when the treatment plan indicates the expectation of sustained clinical improvement in symptoms and function, rather than as preventive or maintenance treatment.
2. Acupuncture is reimbursable for the following conditions:
 - a. Postoperative nausea and/or vomiting
 - b. Post-chemotherapy nausea and/or vomiting
 - c. Pregnancy associated nausea and/or vomiting
 - d. Postoperative pain
 - e. Musculoskeletal pain- chronic neck pain, chronic low back pain, knee osteoarthritis- 1 or 2 treatments per week up to 8 treatments; an additional 6 treatments can be approved if there is documented improvement in symptoms and function.
 - f. Pain caused by local or metastatic malignancy

- g. Headache-chronic migraine and tension types- 1 or 2 treatments per week up to 12 treatments.
 - h. 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.

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