Acupuncture: Update on Pilot Project and Next Steps

Presented by Zachary Gray, MPH
ACHIEV and IIMAC Meetings
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Acupuncture Pilot Update

- L&I acupuncture pilot began October 1st, 2017
- Last presented to ACHIEV and IIMAC on July 26, 2018
- Though data has been/is being collected, it is not a research study and is not looking at the efficacy of acupuncture
Pilot Project Coverage

- **Service:** Acupuncture with or without use of electrical, mechanical, or magnetic devices to stimulate acupuncture points and meridians
- **Condition:** Low Back Pain related to an accepted condition on an open claim
- **Provider Type:** Performed by a health care provider, including East Asian Medical Practitioners, acting within the scope of their license or certification, and enrolled in the pilot program
- **Limits:** No more than 10 treatments for the lifetime of the claim. Required submission of functional questionnaires at initial, middle, and final visits.
Billing and Payment

Code: 1582M
Description: acupuncture

Long description – Needle acupuncture, must include minimum 30 minutes direct patient care, may include electrical acupuncture, all visit costs including needles are bundled, billable only once per day. Max 10 visits per claim, regardless of provider.

Effective date: 10/01/2017

Acupuncture maximum fee - $107.78

E/M codes when clinically indicated– pay per fee schedule.
Acupuncture Pilot—Proposed Coverage Decision

• When ordered by the worker’s attending provider, Labor and Industries covers up to a maximum of 10 treatments over the lifetime of the claim, for the following conditions:
  – Low back pain related to an accepted condition on the claim

• Providers are expected to continue treatment only if clinically meaningful improvement is documented midway through treatment using validated functional instruments. Only the medically necessary number of acupuncture treatments should be provided.

• Validated functional instruments include, but are not limited to:
  – 2-item Graded Chronic Pain Scale (2-item GCPS)
  – Oswestry Disability Index (ODI)
Acupuncture Pilot—Experience and Utilization to Date

Billing Data as of 12/31/18*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Pilot Providers Billing (out of 208)</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills Paid</td>
<td>2779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Claims Paid For</td>
<td>371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Bills Paid per Claim</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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- No adverse events have been noted
- Pilot providers have been consistent and relatively error free in their submission of functional data

*Providers have up to 1 year from date of service to submit their bills
Broadly, next steps will include:

- CR-102 was filed January 2nd
- Currently finalizing the proposed coverage decision
- Public hearing and public comment on proposed language (see next slide for further info)
  - Public hearing scheduled for 2/5/2019 at L&I Headquarters
  - Public comment period runs from 1/2/2019 until 2/5/2019
- File CR-103
  - Pilot would end on effective date of CR-103, tentatively June 1st
Acupuncture Pilot—Next Steps

• Public Hearing Information
  – Date and Time: February 5th 2019 at 1pm
  – Location: L&I Headquarters, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Room S118, Tumwater, WA 98501

• Written Comments:
  – Submit to Jami Lifka, no later than February 5th 2019 at:
  – Department of Labor & Industries, Office of the Medical Director, PO Box 44321, Olympia WA 98504-4321, OR via
  – Email: Jami.Lifka@Lni.wa.gov, OR via
  – Fax: 360-902-6315, OR via
  – Other: Department of Labor & Industries, Office of the Medical Director, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater WA 98501
Acupuncture Pilot—Next Steps

- You can find the proposed acupuncture rule language, the CR-102 and the opportunities to provide comments at https://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Rules/New/Proposed/default.asp