

Comprehensive Error Rate Testing Program Special Study on Chiropractic Frequently Asked Questions

What is the CERT Special Study on Chiropractic?

This study is intended to gather information on improper payments made by Medicare. This study is being conducted in an effort to identify errors in payment made by Federal Government agencies.

What can I expect?

Beginning in August 2010, CERT contractors will begin requesting records from doctors of chiropractic. Providers will have 30 days to respond to the request for documentation. If the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services finds that certain claims or services should not have been paid, CMS will request a recoupment of funds from the provider.

What is the criterion for being reviewed?

If a beneficiary has seen the same provider at least once in each of the months of April, May and June of this year, a provider may face one of these reviews.

Where will these CERT reviews take place? How many will there be?

The reviews will be conducted nationwide and there will be more of the special study CERT reviews than the routine CERT reviews conducted.

Where is this coming from? This program is part of Executive Order 13520, entitled "[Reducing Improper Payments](#)," which President Obama signed into law November 20, 2009. The Executive Order directed Government Agencies to develop plans reduce improper payments. Agencies were ordered to do this by increasing their efforts to eliminate payment error, waste, fraud, and abuse. CMS is responding to this Executive Order by conducting special studies on certain services that have been identified as having high payment error rates.

Is chiropractic care the only area being targeted?

No, CMS is also conducting special studies on power wheelchairs, inpatient hospital short stays and pressure reducing support surfaces.

Did President Obama specifically mention chiropractic care in his Executive Order?

No, chiropractic care was not specifically mentioned in the Executive Order. The President directed that Government agencies determine areas with high payment error rates and develop a plan for reducing those error rates. The analysis done by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services determined that chiropractic services are an area with high payment error rates.

How many reviews are going to be conducted?

In total, 100 reviews are going to be conducted.

What is ACA doing about this?

ACA is requesting a meeting with the appropriate departments at CMS to discuss this and other issues related to audits targeted at doctors of chiropractic.