

Chiropractic Works and Saves Money

In the North America, the total annual cost for health care and lost productivity related to low-back pain is estimated to be nearly **\$100 billion!** Research indicates that low-back pain is the most expensive source of workers' compensation costs in North America.

Numerous studies show chiropractic is an effective and efficient means of natural healing. Below are just some of these studies and their findings.

The Manga Report

The Manga Report is the most comprehensive analysis of low-back pain to date. Commissioned by the Ontario Ministry of Health, the report shows chiropractic treatment is cost-effective, safe, has a high rate of patient satisfaction, and is more effective than medical treatment for low-back pain.

The report recommends management of low-back pain be moved from medical doctors to chiropractors and **found that injured workers with low-back pain returned to work much sooner when treated by chiropractors than by medical doctors.** The report also notes evidence that patients are much more satisfied with chiropractic management of low-back pain than with medical management.

The Manga Report concluded: "**There would be highly significant cost savings if more management of low-back pain was transferred from physicians to chiropractors.** Users of chiropractic care have significantly lower health care costs, especially inpatient costs, than those who use medical care only."

The British Medical Research Council Study

The British Medical Research Council conducted a 10-year study that showed chiropractic care was significantly more effective than medical treatment for patients with chronic and severe pain.

The Nevada Workers' Compensation Study

This study found loss of work time under chiropractic care is less than one-third of the time lost under medical care. The study also found that the average medical cost per patient was 260 percent higher than the average chiropractic cost.

Archives of Internal Medicine Study

A study published in the October 11, 2004 edition of the *Archives of Internal Medicine* compared 700,000 health plan members with a chiropractic benefit with 1 million members of the same plan who did not have the chiropractic benefit.

The study found that members with chiropractic coverage had lower annual total health care expenditures per member per year (\$1463 vs. \$1671). Having chiropractic coverage was associated with a 1.6% decrease in total annual health care costs at the health plan level. Also, patients with chiropractic coverage had lower average back pain episode-related costs (\$289 vs. \$399).

Chiropractic Resource Organization Study

Another recent study published on the Chiropractic Resource Organization website reported the cost of treating episodes of low-back pain was 28 percent lower in patients whose health plan provided chiropractic coverage compared to health plans without coverage. And, total health care costs were 12 percent less for patients in plans that reimbursed for chiropractic services.

The Oakland University Study

Oakland University found "patients who received chiropractic care incurred significantly lower health care costs than patients treated solely by medical or osteopathic physicians." Total insurance payments were 30 percent higher for patients who elected medical care only.

The Texas Workers' Compensation Report

The Texas Chiropractic / Workers' Compensation Report found the average claim for a worker with a low-back injury was \$15,884. If a chiropractor provided at least 90 percent of the care, however, the average cost declined by more than 50 percent, to \$7,632.

American Journal of Managed Care Study

This study found chiropractic care was substantially more cost-effective than conventional care. The authors also concluded that properly managed chiropractic care can yield outcomes, in terms of surgical requirements and patient satisfaction, that are equal to those of non-chiropractic care, at a substantially lower cost per patient.

The Utah Study

The Utah Study compared the cost of chiropractic care to the cost of medical care for conditions with identical diagnostic codes and found that cost was almost 10 times higher for medical than for chiropractic claims. Also, the number of work days lost was nearly ten times higher for those who received medical care.

The Florida Study

The Florida Study showed patients receiving chiropractic care rather than medical care had lower treatment costs by more than 50 percent.