

New Mexico Medical Advisory Team (MAT) Assessment

Workgroup Name: Reopening Healthcare

Date: May 20, 2020

Reopening Guidelines: Chiropractic Offices

The following guidelines are recommended for use by Chiropractic Physicians.

Principles:

The following priorities must inform all actions towards resuming non-emergent and medically necessary care and office-based procedures:

- Minimize the risk of SARS-COV-2 transmission to patients, healthcare workers, and others;
- Avoid further delays in healthcare for New Mexicans;
- Maintain adequate hospital capacity in case of an increase in COVID-19 cases;
- Minimize non-COVID-19 health emergencies presenting at emergency departments;
- Support the healthcare workforce in safely resuming activities; and,
- Non-emergent and medically necessary procedures performed in medical offices are assumed to be minimally invasive with outcomes not strongly associated with the patient's COVID-19 status.

PPE Considerations:

Prior to resuming non-emergent and medically necessary care in medical offices, the following criteria must be met:

- The office must have adequate PPE supplies for 2 weeks without the need for emergency PPE conserving measures; and,
- CDC guidelines must be followed for extended use or reuse of PPE.

Considerations for Facilities & Clinics:

Using models that restrict the percentage of patient volume with respect to previous COVID-19 patient volume may not be appropriate modeling for the chiropractic profession due to significant variances in practice types and volume. Some chiropractic offices may see less than 10 patients on a given day while others may see more than 100 patients a day.

To ensure proper distancing in a chiropractic physician's office, physical settings of the clinic should dictate patient flow and volume. Clinics that use multi-patient treatment rooms/areas need to take patient distancing into particular consideration. This applies to physician treatment areas and physical therapy/active care areas in a clinic. The following considerations should be kept in mind:

- Ability to isolate patients from other patients throughout the clinic experience;
- Ability to disinfect patient traffic areas between patient visits;
- Chiropractic offices should implement social distancing measures within waiting rooms and other areas of the office;
- Chiropractic offices must maintain a plan to reduce or stop nonemergency and elective procedures should a surge/resurgence of COVID-19 cases occur in their region;
- Prioritize patients and procedures based on whether continued delay will have potential for permanent impairment;
- Follow [CDC guidelines](#) for infection control;
- All patients and caregivers should wear a mask (except where not feasible due to type of care delivered); and,
- Continue to deliver care via telehealth where possible.

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Enhanced Screening Procedures:

- Telephone screening of patients and caregivers for COVID-19 symptoms, previous exposure, and prior COVID-19 testing at time of scheduling;
- COVID-19 positive cases should not visit the office for treatment until they have been released from isolation using [current NM Department of Health guidelines](#) for isolation and quarantine; and,
- Upon arrival at the facility, screen all patients for symptoms, including temperature checks.

Reporting Requirements:

Facilities should maintain compliance with Federal and State COVID-19 testing reporting requirements. See resources below for further information:

- Federal: <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/10/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-hhs-letter-hospital-administrator>
- State: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/clinicians/>

Category	Contact Intensity	Number of Contacts	Modification Potential	Mitigation Resources
Chiropractic medicine (lifestyle modification, diet, nutrition counseling, and primary care, etc.)	Low	Low	High	American Chiropractic Association , New Mexico Chiropractic Association
Chiropractic medicine (soft tissue manual therapy)	High	Low	Low	American Chiropractic Association , New Mexico Chiropractic Association
Chiropractic medicine (Physiotherapy, rehabilitative exercises)	Low	Low	High	American Chiropractic Association , New Mexico Chiropractic Association