

## Impact of Chiropractic Services at an On-Site Health Center

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The objective of this study was to compare the influence of employer-sponsored, on-site chiropractic care against community-obtained care on health care utilization. It was a retrospective claims analysis study, using 876 on-site and 759 off-site participants.

### KEY POINTS FROM THIS ARTICLE:

- 1) Musculoskeletal conditions are the primary cause of physical disability in the United States.
- 2) About 50% of US adults have back pain, arthritis, osteoporosis, or bodily injury in excess of 3 months' duration annually.
- 3) 17% of US workers have absenteeism as a result of musculoskeletal conditions yearly.
- 4) Neck pain inhibits about 14% of workers from successfully completing their jobs.
- 5) In 2006, the average direct cost of treatment for musculoskeletal conditions was \$576 billion, and indirect costs added an additional \$373 billion, primarily in wage losses. **[total = \$949 billion]**
- 6) "Doctors of chiropractic promote wellness and injury prevention."
- 7) "Chiropractic care has been demonstrated to deliver effective treatment for the symptoms of musculoskeletal conditions."
- 8) "On-site chiropractic care has been shown to deliver substantial value through convenience of access, high quality of care and delivery, and lowered overall costs."
- 9) On-site chiropractic care has "demonstrated significant improvements in headache, neck pain, and low back pain functional status in patients utilizing on-site services over a short time frame while still showing lower utilization and cost outcomes than community-based care."
- 10) Employer-sponsored worksite clinics could control costs and increase workplace productivity while providing high quality and convenient care to their employees.

- 11) "This study demonstrates that users of on-site chiropractic services have lower health care utilization than those who obtain their care at off-site community care centers."
- 12) "Patients receiving chiropractic care on-site were significantly less likely to have radiology [diagnostic imaging, including MRI, ultrasound, and x-rays] testing."
- 13) The off-site group received more radiology services overall (55.5% vs 38.2%) including magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasound, and radiograph; had higher outpatient and emergency department utilization; and demonstrated greater use of chiropractic care and physical therapy.
- 14) "The mean number of chiropractic services and physical therapy visits per member were both significantly higher in the off-site group."
- 15) "The results of this study support the value of chiropractic services offered at on-site health centers in comparison with chiropractic services provided off-site. Future research into potential indirect and direct cost savings would supplement this study and further demonstrate the advantages of on-site chiropractic care."
- 16) "Compared with off-site care, on-site chiropractic services are associated with lower health care utilization. These results support the value of chiropractic services offered at on-site health centers."

<b>[numbers rounded]</b>	<b>On-Site Chiropractic Care</b>	<b>Off-site Chiropractic Care</b>
<b>Diagnostic Imaging (X-ray, MRI, Ultrasound)</b>	38%	56%
(X-ray)	27%	46%
(MRI)	12%	15%
(Ultrasound)	11%	16%
<b>Repeated Diagnostic Imaging</b>	19%	30%
<b>Outpatient Utilization</b>	30%	47%
<b>Emergency Department Visits</b>	13%	19%

#### COMMENTS FROM DAN MURPHY

This article could be a great marketing strategy for new graduates. It suggests that all major companies should have an on-site chiropractor.