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.
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:
- State: https://cv.nmhealth.org/clinicians/

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Contact Intensity</th>
<th>Number of Contacts</th>
<th>Modification Potential</th>
<th>Mitigation Resources</th>
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