



Billing Guidance for Acupuncturists

Medicare covers acupuncture for chronic lower back pain. Plans must offer this benefit and can choose to offer a supplemental benefit in addition to the original Medicare-covered visits.

Previously, most Healthfirst providers submitted claims for acupuncture visits using ICD-10 M54.5. However, this ICD was retired on October 1, 2021.

Important Coding Reminders

- Although M54.5 was replaced by M54.50, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) does not recognize this ICD for payment under Original Medicare. **Instead, CMS recognizes M54.51 and M54.59 for acupuncture visits.**
- Providers who bill with M54.50 will have the benefit covered under a supplemental acupuncture benefit, not the original Medicare benefit. **Please note that the Coordinated Benefits Plan (CBP) does not have a supplemental acupuncture benefit, so the claim would deny.**

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact your Network Account Manager, or call Provider Services at **1-888-801-1660**, Monday to Friday, 8:30am–5:30pm.