



# CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES

VA's Chiropractic Program exemplifies the Department's forward-looking approach to healthcare. Chiropractic services include evidence-based, patient-centered care options that are in high demand by Veterans and routinely requested by VA physicians. Use of VA chiropractic services continues to grow at a rapid rate particularly for Veterans from Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn, pain management, and older Veteran populations. VA's delivery of chiropractic care is the most comprehensive integration of these services into any major United States healthcare system.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Chiropractic care is available to all eligible Veterans as part of the standard Medical Benefits Package. Services are provided on-station at most major medical centers and some outpatient clinics. Chiropractic care is also provided through Care in the Community.

### VETERANS SERVED

VA chiropractic care is associated with decreased use of opioids for chronic pain in Veterans. VA chiropractic services are used by Veterans across the continuum of care, yet there is particular value in populations with a high prevalence of musculoskeletal conditions such as Women Veterans, older adults, and OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.

### SERVICES

VA DCs provide diagnosis and management consistent with both VA and external evidence-based guidelines. Treatment options include active rehabilitation, spinal manipulation and other manual therapies, and patient education. VA DCs may also provide acupuncture or other novel therapies as non-pharmacologic options for Veteran care.

### TRENDS

Since late 2004, VA has established over 150 chiropractic clinics staffed by over 225 DCs, and over 280,000 individual Veterans have received on-station chiropractic care. VA continues to assess and modify its delivery of chiropractic services to meet Veteran demand and optimize outcomes.

## CLINICS

VA provides chiropractic services on-site at multiple VA facilities in each VISN. VA facilities that do not have on-site chiropractic clinics provide these services via Community Care mechanisms. A list of VA facilities with on-site chiropractic clinics is available at:

[www.rehab.va.gov/chiro/locations.asp](http://www.rehab.va.gov/chiro/locations.asp)