

Inquiry

Why is procedure 97140 disallowed when submitted with procedure 98940-98943?

Code Description

97140 MANUAL THERAPY TECHNIQUES (EG, MOBILIZATION/ MANIPULATION, MANUAL LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE, MANUAL TRACTION), 1 OR MORE REGIONS, EACH 15 MINUTES

98942 CHIROPRACTIC MANIPULATIVE TREATMENT (CMT); SPINAL, 5 REGIONS

Response

Procedures 98940 - 98943 are used to report chiropractic manipulative treatment (CMT) performed on one to two spinal regions. This procedure is considered a form of manual treatment to influence joint and neurophysiological function done by a variety of chiropractic techniques. These procedures include the usual pre-manipulation and post manipulation patient assessments.

Procedure 97140 is used to report manual therapy techniques that may be applied to one or more regions for 15-minute intervals. These techniques include, but are not limited to, mobilization/manipulation, manual lymphatic drainage, and manual traction of a specified area.

An assumption of same anatomic site is made during the auditing process.

The performance of manipulation includes manual traction and mobilization. There are very few indications for the application of manual therapy techniques, as described in procedure 97140, in addition to manipulation. An example of such an indication is the presence of lymphedema that cannot be treated by conventional means. This clinical situation is extremely rare.

Clinical code auditing logic is based on the most likely clinical situation and therefore assumes that both therapy techniques were applied to the same anatomic location. Thus, the performance of procedure 97140 with CMT represents an overlap of services and a duplication of effort that does not warrant separate reimbursement. Modifiers 25 and 59 will not override this edit.

Therefore, procedure 97140 is not recommended for separate reimbursement when submitted with procedure 98940-98943 .