

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

PROVIDER INFORMATION



March 11, 2020

CMS Decision Memo on Acupuncture for Chronic Low Back Pain

On January 21, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a decision memo (CAG-00452N) communicating future coverage of acupuncture for chronic low back pain, including a draft national coverage determination (NCD) outlining the criteria for coverage. Prior to the decision memo, CMS considered acupuncture to be not reasonable and necessary for the treatment of any condition. Until the NCD is published, and takes effect, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will continue to deny acupuncture for Medicare members as a benefit exclusion. Once the NCD is published, if it has a retroactive effective date, Blue Cross will reprocess impacted claims.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.