



## Kaiser Foundation Health Plan - Hawaii

### Acupuncture Guideline (Kaiser Medicare only)

Acupuncture for chronic lower back pain is a benefit for Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage (KPSA, Kaiser Medicare) members.

#### Clinical Review

Acupuncture for Chronic Lower Back Pain may be covered if ALL the following are met:

- Pain lasting 12 weeks or longer.
- Nonspecific, in that it has no identifiable systemic cause (not associated with metastatic, inflammatory, infectious, etc. disease).
- Pain not associated with surgery.
- Pain not associated with pregnancy.

#### Covered:

- Up to 12 visits in 90 days
- Additional 8 sessions will be covered for patient demonstrating an improvement.

#### Not Covered:

- More than 20 acupuncture treatments administered annually (excess of 20 treatments per year).
- Continued treatment for patient who is not improving or regressing.

#### Approval

#### Dates

Chief Approval: Sharin Burton, MD  
Chief, Department of Neuroscience

10/2022, 12/2023

#### References

Medicare, National Coverage Analysis (NCA) – Acupuncture for Chronic Low Back Pain (CAG-00452N)