

Comparing Chiropractic

Editorial Staff

Of the more than \$35 billion dollars spent on ambulatory, nonphysician (non-MD) services in 1987, chiropractic accounted for almost 10 percent. But for that money, chiropractors provided over 17 percent of the total patient contacts:

TWO PIE CHARTS

Nonphysician Ambulatory Services

Expenditures:

Nursing - 16.6%
Lab - 20.8%
Physical Therapy - 13.3%
Speech Therapy - .9%
Mental Health - 9.6%
Optometry - 1.2%
Chiropractic - 9.8%
Podiatry - 2.5%
Other - 25.3%

Patient Contacts:

Nursing - 17.3%
Lab - 6.6%
Physical Therapy - 7.4%
Speech Therapy - 1.2%
Mental Health - 9.8%
Optometry - 1.1%
Chiropractic - 17.6%
Podiatry - 2.6%
Other - 36.4%

How is it that physical therapy accounted for over 13 percent of the \$35 billion, while only providing about 7 percent of the services, while chiropractors accounted for less than 10 percent of those dollars and providing over 17% of the services?

----- SOURCE: Nichols, L. Nonphysician health care providers: use of ambulatory services, expenditures, and sources of payment (AHCPR Pub. No. 96-0013). National Medical Expenditure Survey Research Findings 27. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, Rockville, MD: Public Health Service, Jan. 1996.

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