



U.S. Department of Labor  
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs  
Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation

## Massage Therapy

### **General Information**

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA) provides medical benefits to covered employees under Parts B and E of the Act. The EEOICPA ensures that employees who have an accepted illness receive necessary medical care for that illness. The Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation (DEEOIC) has determined that certain authorized medical conditions may require massage therapy as part of their treatment. This frequently asked questions document defines the authorization process to bill for massage therapy benefits. For further information about special circumstances or individual cases, please contact your Medical Benefits Examiner (MBE) at the DEEOIC National Office or contact the Resource Center that services your area. For your convenience, we list the contact information for the National Office and the Resource Centers at the end of this document.

### **What is massage therapy?**

Massage therapy is the manipulation of body soft tissues for the purpose of normalizing those tissues and consists of manual techniques that include applying fixed or movable pressure.

### **Potential benefits of massage therapy**

- ✓ Reduces pain and muscle tension
- ✓ Increases flexibility, range of motion, and relaxation
- ✓ Improves blood circulation promoting deeper and easier breathing

### **What are the requirements for approving payment for massage therapy authorization?**

- ✓ Prescription for massage therapy or manual therapy signed by the treating physician
- ✓ Face-to-face evaluation conducted by the treating physician for initial pre-authorization request
- ✓ Letter of medical necessity from the physician must list the therapeutic benefits of massage therapy for the accepted condition. The letter should also include the frequency and duration of the therapy to be provided with the allotted time, i.e.; twice a week for eight weeks
- ✓ All requests must be submitted in writing before authorization for payment can occur
- ✓ All requests require prior authorization

### **How will I be notified of an approval?**

If the information received by DEEOIC is sufficient for approval, an authorization letter is sent to the claimant, provider and treating physician outlining the following:

- ✓ Covered condition for massage therapy
- ✓ Number of visits approved
- ✓ Authorized billing codes
- ✓ Period of authorization

Note: The DEEOIC does not consider massage or manual therapy medically appropriate when prescribed for illness prevention, recreation (spa therapy), or stress reduction.

### **How will I be notified of a denial?**

If the information received by DEEOIC is not sufficient to warrant authorization or reauthorization of payment for massage therapy, DEEOIC will send a detailed letter decision to the claimant, provider and treating physician. The decision will explain the evidence reviewed and why that evidence was insufficient.

### **Are there any limitations on how many times I can receive massage therapy?**

DEEOIC can approve payment for massage therapy for up to 2 visits per week, up to 8 weeks (16 initial visits). Each treatment session may be no more than 1.5 hours in duration. Reauthorization is required from the medical provider every 8 weeks. DEEOIC authorizes approval in increments of 16 visits. No more than 60 visits can be approved in any calendar year.

### **Appropriate Locations for Massage Therapy Services**

- Medical clinic
- Medical office

### **Can I receive these services in my home?**

For consideration for approval of in home visit requests, the patient must demonstrate that they are homebound. Medical evidence from the treating physician must demonstrate that the claimant is medically unable to travel to obtain massage therapy.

### **Are there any special requirements that my provider of choice must follow?**

It is also important to note that a provider must be enrolled with DEEOIC to be paid for their services. The provider must also hold a valid massage therapist license or certification in the state where the services are rendered; and services are billed daily. The provider must submit the bill, along with medical notes, to the DEEOIC bill processing contractor. The medical notes need to describe the particular therapeutic care provided during each authorized visit. The notes should describe the benefits of the massage therapy, including any specific improvements in functionality or in achieving relief from the symptoms of the compensable illness. For more information on enrollment, your provider can visit <https://owcpmed.dol.gov> or, call 1-866-272-2682 for additional assistance.

### **What if I need services beyond the initial 8-week authorization period?**

DEEOIC will evaluate requests for extensions for payment authorizations of massage therapy services. Medical documentation must support that the condition or level of function has not improved, and that the ongoing services provide tangible medical relief.

## **DEEOIC RESOURCE CENTERS & REGIONAL JURISDICTION**

The DEEOIC has established eleven (11) Resource Centers nationwide to assist employees and their families with applying for benefits under the EEOICPA. If you want help with any part of your EEOICPA claim, including massage therapy or the medical billing process, you may contact one of the Resource Centers. They can provide assistance either in person or over the telephone, and, therefore, are able to service individuals who are outside the immediate geographical area. For assistance, you should contact a Resource Center based on the location of the employee's last employment. The Resource Centers, including their regional jurisdiction, are listed below:

### **California Resource Center**

7027 Dublin Blvd  
Suite 150  
Dublin, CA 94568  
Telephone: 925-606-6302  
Toll-Free: 1-866-606-6302  
Fax: 925-606-6303  
[California, Hawaii](#)

### **Hanford Resource Center**

303 Bradley Blvd  
Suite 206  
Richland, WA 99352  
Telephone: 509-946-3333  
Toll-Free: 1-888-654-0014  
Fax: 509-946-2009  
[Alaska, Oregon, Washington](#)

### **Portsmouth Resource Center**

1200 Gay St  
Portsmouth, OH 45662  
Telephone: 740-353-6993  
Toll-Free: 1-866-363-6993  
Fax: 740-353-4707  
[Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Puerto Rico, West Virginia, Wisconsin](#)

### **Denver Resource Center**

8758 Wolff Ct  
Suite 101  
Westminster, CO 80031  
Telephone: 720-540-4977  
Toll-Free: 1-866-540-4977  
Fax: 720-540-4976  
[Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming](#)

### **Idaho Resource Center**

1820 E 17th St  
Suite 250  
Idaho Falls, ID 83404  
Telephone: 208-523-0158  
Toll-Free: 1-800-861-8608  
Fax: 208-557-0551  
[Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah](#)

### **Savannah River Resource Center**

1708-B Bunting Dr  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
Telephone: 803-279-2728  
Toll-Free: 1-866-666-4606  
Fax: 803-279-0146  
[Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina](#)

### **Espanola Resource Center**

412 Paseo De Onate  
Suite D  
Espanola, NM 87532  
Telephone: 505-747-6766  
Toll-Free: 1-866-272-3622  
Fax: 505-747-6765  
[New Mexico, Texas](#)

### **Las Vegas Resource Center**

1050 E Flamingo Rd  
Suite W-156  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
Telephone: 702-697-0841  
Toll-Free: 1-866-697-0841  
Fax: 702-697-0843  
[Arizona, Nevada](#)

### **Paducah Resource Center**

125 Memorial Center  
Paducah, KY 42001  
Telephone: 270-534-0599  
Toll-Free: 1-866-534-0599  
Fax: 270-534-8723  
[Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri](#)

### **Oak Ridge Resource Center**

800 Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Suite C-103  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
Telephone: 865-481-0411  
Toll-Free: 1-866-481-0411  
Fax: 865-481-8832  
[Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia](#)

### **New York Resource Center**

6000 N Bailey Ave  
Suite 2A, Box #2  
Amherst, NY 14226  
Telephone: 716-832-6200  
Toll-Free: 1-800-941-3943  
Fax: 716-832-6638  
[Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont](#)