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## SENATE BILL 273 ENACTED IN EFFORTS TO HELP REDUCE OPIOID ADDICTION ACT REQUIRES COVERAGE FOR CERTAIN ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS FOR MANAGING CHRONIC PAIN

West Virginia Senate Bill 273, signed into law on March 27, 2018, seeks to promote the physical and mental health of residents of West Virginia by requiring health care insurers to provide coverage for certain alternative treatments to manage chronic pain. At a minimum, coverage must be provided for twenty (20) visits per event of physical therapy, occupational therapy, osteopathic manipulation, a chronic pain management program, and chiropractic services when ordered by a health care practitioner to treat conditions that cause chronic pain.

Highmark West Virginia **Medical Policy Y-23**, effective September 17, 2018, addresses the Act's requirements and medical necessity criteria for chronic pain management. For therapy and manipulation services, please refer to the following Highmark West Virginia medical policies: **Y-1** Physical Medicine; **Y-2** Occupational Therapy (OT); and **Y-9** Manipulation Services. Highmark West Virginia Medical Policy can be accessed quickly by selecting **MEDICAL POLICY SEARCH** from the **Quicklinks Bar** at the top of the Provider Resource Center.

### HIGHMARK WEST VIRGINIA'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATE

Beginning with benefit plans with July 1, 2018, renewal dates, Highmark West Virginia will apply the mandate to fully-insured large group and small group products, as well as Medicare supplemental group and individual plans, upon renewal. The Act becomes effective for individual Affordable Care Act (ACA) products, both on and off the Exchange, on January 1, 2019. Self-insured employer groups will be offered the opportunity to opt-in and may or may not elect to follow the requirements of the mandate.

For additional information, please see the *Highmark Provider Manual's* [Chapter 4.4: Ancillary Services](#).