



Disparities in Access to Pain Rehabilitation Programs for Patients with Medicaid

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Background: Chronic pain conditions are a rising health concern, and Medicaid beneficiaries have been disproportionately affected. Yet most of the interdisciplinary pain rehabilitation programs continue to not accept patients with Medicaid insurance. Additionally, those that accept Medicaid continue to have certain required conditions that must be met such as having a referral before receiving any treatment. The aim of this study was to evaluate the access to various pain rehabilitation programs across the nation for potential Pain Rehabilitation Patients with Medicaid. **Methods:** Contact was made with 12 different Pain Rehabilitation Programs from 12 different states utilizing a mock-patient script for a patient with Medicaid. To maintain anonymity, calls were made with an alias name. **Results:** Overall, 50% of the clinics reported that they did not accept Medicaid insurance, while the other 50% reported they did accept in-state Medicaid as a form of payment. **Discussion:** The findings further affirm the need for more pain rehabilitation programs to accept Medicaid participants as well as the need for more access to non-opioid and non-surgical treatments for chronic pain.