

Doctor-Patient Relationship in Chiropractic **Informed Consent**

Chiropractic: It is important to acknowledge the difference between the health care specialists of chiropractic, osteopathy, and medicine. Chiropractic health care seeks to restore health through natural means without the use of medicine or surgery. This gives the body maximum opportunity to utilize its inherent recuperative power. The success of the Chiropractic doctor's procedure often depends on the environment, underlying causes, physical and spinal condition. It is important to understand what to expect from Chiropractic health care services.

Analysis: A doctor of chiropractic conducts a clinical analysis for the express purpose of determining whether there is evidence of spinal conditions. When spinal conditions are found chiropractic adjustments and/or ancillary procedures may be given in the attempt to restore spinal integrity. It is the chiropractic premise that spinal alignment allows nerve transmission throughout the body and gives the body an opportunity to use its inherent recuperative powers.

Diagnosis: Although doctors of chiropractic are experts in chiropractic diagnosis, they are not internal medicine specialists. Every chiropractic patient must be mindful of his/her symptoms and should secure other options if he/she has any concerns as to the nature of his/her condition. Your doctor of chiropractic may assist you in finding a specialist as well as give their opinion on steps you may take, but you are responsible for your final healthcare decision.

Informed consent for Chiropractic Care: A patient, in coming to a doctor of chiropractic, gives the doctor the authority to care for the patient in accordance with the chiropractic test, diagnosis, and analysis. The chiropractic adjustment or other clinical procedures are usually beneficial and seldom cause any problems. In rare cases, underlying physical deficit, deformities, or pathologies may render the patient susceptible to injuries. The doctor of Chiropractic will not give a chiropractic adjustment or any procedure if they are aware that such care may be contraindicated. Again, it is the responsibility of the patient to make it known or to learn through health care procedures whatever he or she is suffering from: latent pathological defects, illness, or deformity which would not otherwise come to the attention of the doctor of chiropractic. The patient should look to the correct specialist for the proper diagnosis and clinical procedure. The doctor of chiropractic provides a specialized, non-duplicating health care service. The doctor of chiropractic is licensed in a special practice and is available to work with other types of providers in your health care team.

Results: The purpose of chiropractic service is to permit natural health through the care and correction of your joint and body function. Since there are so many variables, it is difficult to predict the time schedule or efficacy of the chiropractic procedures. Sometimes the response is phenomenal. In most cases there is a more gradual, but satisfactory response. Occasionally, the results are less than expected. Two or more similar conditions may respond differently to the same treatment. The fact is that the science of chiropractic and medicine may never be so exact as to provide definitive answers to all problems. Both have made great strides in alleviating pain and controlling disease.

**To the Patient: Please discuss any questions or problems with the office staff or doctor
before signing acknowledgement on your Welcome Sheet.**

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