

Chiropractic Standards of Practice & Professional Conduct



ILLINOIS PRAIRIE STATE CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

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IPSCA Executive Committee and Board of Directors, shall assume responsibility for compliance with state law as it regards and relates to the reporting of disciplinary action of members.



CHIROPRACTOR'S OATH

In accordance with the Law of Nature, that Law which God has prescribed to all men: and in consequence of my dedication to getting the sick well by the application of that Law, I promise and swear to keep, to the best of my ability and judgment, the following oath:

I will observe and practice every acknowledged rule of professional conduct in relation with my profession, my patient, my colleague, and myself.

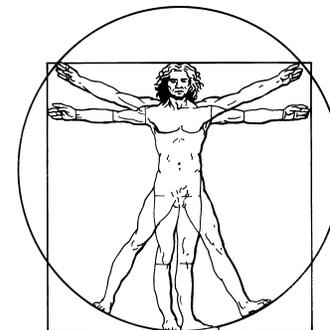
I will keep an open mind regarding the progress of my profession, provided that these progressions shall be confined within the boundaries of the Chiropractic Science, Philosophy, and Art.

I will serve my patient to the best of my ability, violating neither his confidence nor his dignity, and in my association with patients I shall not violate that which is moral and right.

I shall improve my knowledge and skill, firm in my resolution to justify the responsibility which the degree of Doctor of Chiropractic Symbolizes and imposes.

To all this, I pledge myself, knowing these ideals are prescribed by the dictates of reason alone.

*Originated by the Class of '48
Palmer School of Chiropractic*



CHIROPRACTIC

CHIROPRACTIC is the science which concerns it self with the relationship between structure, primarily of the spine, and function, primarily of the nervous system, of the human body as the relationship may affect the restoration and preservation of health.

These standards are prepared and adopted as a guide for members of the Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Association, April, 1985, revised October 1992.

STANDARDS OF CHIROPRACTIC

Applying the science of chiropractic, the doctor of chiropractic performs a healing art encompassing the following Standards of Chiropractic Practice:

I. Subjective: Chiropractic Case History

A chiropractic case history shall be taken, the extent of which will be dictated by the considerations of the individual case presentation and the professional judgment of the attending doctor of chiropractic.

II. Objective: Chiropractic Examination

A doctor of chiropractic shall perform a chiropractic examination with emphasis on the presence or absence of a spinal or vertebral subluxation complex (the subluxation herein defined as any alteration of the biomechanical and/or physiological dynamics of contiguous articular structures which can cause neuronal modifications.)

The doctor of chiropractic shall make an assessment of structural tissues to determine the indications or contraindications regarding application of the chiropractic spinal adjustment or other forms of chiropractic clinical application.

The chiropractic examination may include x-ray, non-forceful static and motion palpation, thermographic and other appropriate analytical instrumentation, neurological findings, tests and measurements.

Directors. The accused's shall give written notice to the Subcommittee on Chiropractic Standards Application and to the Secretary of intent to appeal. The House of Delegates shall hold a hearing in a matter at its next regular or special meeting. The hearing by the House of Delegates shall hold a meeting. The hearing by the House of Delegates shall be de nove (anew). The record of the proceedings before the Board of Directors may be considered along with any other matters presented to the House of Delegates. In the event of an appeal to the House of Delegates, the action taken by the Board of Directors shall be null and void unless affirmed by the House of Delegates. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the House of Delegates shall be necessary to affirm the action of the Board of Directors and a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the House of Delegates shall be necessary to impose stricter disciplinary action than what the Board of Directors directed.

6. In the event the House of Delegates' opinion does not concur with the Board of Directors' opinion, the Secretary shall notify the Association President. The Association President shall call a special meeting of the State Assembly of the Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Association. A two-third (2/3) quorum of each body - Executive Committee, Board of Directors and House of Delegates shall rehear the matter. A four-fifths (4/5) vote of the Assembly shall be necessary to suspend the accused from membership. Disciplinary action of lesser statue may be voted by a majority of the Assembly.
7. Any Director, Officer or Delegate may be recalled and his office or position declared vacant by following the same procedure as for disciplining other matters. The President may appoint a replacement with the appeal of the State Assembly.
8. The Subcommittee on Chiropractic Standards Application, the

shall inform the accused that if the complaint is found to be substantially accurate; it will result in some disciplinary action being taken against the accused; which may result in his/her expulsion from membership and be reported to the Illinois Department of Professional Regulations.

- f.) The accused member may file an answer with the Secretary within fifteen (15) days after the receipt of the notice and the complaint.
4. The Board of Directors will then consider the complaint as filed by the Subcommittee on Chiropractic Standards Application. The Committee notice by the Secretary, via registered mail, of the time set by the Board of Directors to consider the complaint at the time both the Subcommittee on Chiropractic Standards Application and the accused, or their respective representatives, may be present. Any person entitled to be present may be heard and may present witnesses. The Board of Directors may set reasonable rules for the orderly conduct of the hearing and may close the hearing from attendance by all, except those people involved, their representatives and their witnesses. The Board of Directors shall proceed to decide the question as to the merits of the complaint. Including what disciplinary action, if any is warranted. A four-fifths (4/5) vote of the Board of Directors shall be required to suspend the accused for a period of one (1) year or more. Disciplinary action of lesser stature may be voted by a majority of the Board of Directors.
5. The action of the Board of Directors may be appealed to the House of Delegates by the accused, if such action reflects upon the conduct of the accused. The appeal to the House of Delegates shall be made within ten (10) days after the final action of the Board of

In those cases where x-ray utilized, it is recommended that the doctor of chiropractic adopt the following guidelines:

1. Routine radiography of any patient should be preformed with due regard for clinical need.
2. Repeat radiographic evaluation of the patient should not be undertaken without significant observable clinical indication, as determined by the attending doctor of chiropractic.
3. Pregnant females should not be radiographed unless the patient's symptoms are of such significance that the proper care of the patient might be jeopardized without the use of such radiographs.
4. Radiographic procedures should not be undertaken without the use of appropriate compensating filters and gonad shielding, except where such gonad shielding would exclude an area from examination which is clinically necessary to examine.
5. Females with reproductive potential, or where the possibility of pregnancy exists, should be radiographed only where clinically necessary.

Further diagnostic test may be warranted in the professional judgment of the attending doctor of chiropractic based on the individual patient's condition.

III. Assessment: Chiropractic Diagnosis or Analysis

The doctor of chiropractic will arrive at a chiropractic diagnosis

or analysis incorporating the essential findings evidenced by the chiropractic case history and chiropractic examination.

The doctor of chiropractic shall inform the patient of the physical will, in conjunction with the patient, follow one of the commonly accepted approaches to the case.

- acceptance of the case,
- acceptance of the case with qualification,
- referral of the case,
- non-acceptance of the case.

IV. Plan: Chiropractic Care or Disposition

Having taken the case history, performed the chiropractic examination and rendered the chiropractic diagnosis or analysis, the doctor of chiropractic shall, upon informing the patient, take one of the following approaches to the case:

- Acceptance of the case.

Care is directed at but not limited to the adjustment, correction or reduction of the spinal or vertebral subluxation complex.

Unique to the chiropractic profession is the delivery of the chiropractic adjustment which is the specific manual movement of a vertebra, using the vertebral processes as levers, to replace the vertebral motor unit to its normal biomechanical and physiological state. The purpose and intent of such adjustment is to relieve connective tissue distortion and any nerve impingement.

Associated manipulation may include any applied manual or

make disposition of matters concerning the conduct of any IPSCA member. It will utilize the procedure herein set forth.

2. Any doctor, who is a member of the IPSCA may file a complaint of any illegal violation of the Standards of Practice and Professional Conduct of the IPSCA or of conduct unbecoming a doctor of chiropractic.
3. With respect to such complaints:
 - a.) They shall be submitted in writing with supportive documentation of an alleged violation.
 - b.) All copies shall be signed by the party or parties making the complaint.
 - c.) The Subcommittee on Chiropractic Standards Application shall conduct an independent confidential investigation of any charges coming to the attention of the Committee.
 - d.) After reasonable investigation, the Subcommittee on Chiropractic Standards Application will determine if there is good reason to believe that a member has been guilty of violation(s). The Committee shall prepare and file with the Secretary a written complaint in which the information discovered is clearly stated; pointing out the alleged violation(s) or alleged unbecoming conduct found in the complaint.
 - e.) Notice of the filing of the complaint together with a copy of same shall be mailed by the Secretary to the accused by registered mail to his/her last known address at least twenty (20) days prior to any board action. The notice

evaluate same for appropriate inclusion in the IPSCA Chiropractic Standards of Practice and/or Standards of Professional Conduct.

3. Periodically review and update the IPSCA Chiropractic Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Conduct so as to reflect the most current information and data relating to the practice of chiropractic.

The Committee of Chiropractic Standards of Practice and Standards of Professional Conduct shall prepare such updates for submission to the IPSCA Executive Committee, Board of Directors and House of Delegates for appropriate action. The Committee shall also be responsible for incorporating approved additions or for deleting obsolete standards at the determination of the leadership and for dissemination of such additions or deletions to the Association membership.

A subcommittee on Chiropractic Standards Application is appointed by the president with a mandate to follow established procedures for filing and processing complaints in matters relating to professional practice and conduct.

PROCEDURES FOR FILING AND PROCESSING COMPLAINTS IN MATTERS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND CONDUCT

1. The Subcommittee on Chiropractic Standards Application, may upon its own initiative or upon receipt of a complaint, consider and

mechanical movement supportive to the chiropractic adjustment and/or the patient's general health.

Procedures supportive to the adjustment included rehabilitative exercises, nutritional advice and/or other complementary procedures.

Case assessment will dictate one of the following programs of care:

A. Active

1. Relief
2. Therapeutic
3. Rehabilitative
4. Supportive

B. Preventative

- Acceptance of the case with qualification.

Based on the case assessment, the doctor of chiropractic accepts the patient for one of the above programs of care, while concurrently requesting an interdisciplinary consultation or evaluation.

- Referral of the case.

In the professional judgment of the doctor of chiropractic, chiropractic care is deemed inappropriate for this case and the doctor of chiropractic will so inform the patient.

- Non-acceptance of the case.

The doctor of chiropractic, in his professional judgment, elects not to accept the case and so informs the individual. Grounds

for non-acceptance shall not include discriminatory factors such as age, gender, ethnic background or creed.

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

As members of a healing arts profession applying the highly specialized chiropractic science and art, doctors of chiropractic are committed to increasing knowledge of the human body as it concerns the restoration and preservation of health and to the utilization of such knowledge for the promotion of the public welfare.

Doctors of chiropractic use their skills only for purposes consistent with these values and do not knowingly permit their misuse by others. While reserving the right of freedom of inquiry and communication, doctors of chiropractic accept the responsibility this freedom requires: objectivity in the application of skills, and concern for the best interests of their patients, colleagues and society:

Pursuing these ideals, doctors of chiropractic, by virtue of membership in this association, voluntarily subscribe to the following Standards of Professional Conduct which are intended as a guide with respect to responsibilities to patients, the public and fellow practitioners.

I. Responsibility to the Patient.

1. Doctors of chiropractic should recognize and respect the right of every person to free choice of doctor of chiropractic or other health care provider and the right

3. Doctors of chiropractic and their immediate dependents should receive gratuitous professional services from other doctors of chiropractic.
4. As teachers, doctors of chiropractic should recognize their obligation to help others acquired knowledge and skill in the practice of the profession. They should maintain high standards, of scholarships, education, training and objectivity in the accurate and full dissemination of information and ideas.
5. Doctors of chiropractic should promote and maintain cordial relationships with other members of the chiropractic profession and other professions for the exchange of information advantageous to the public health and well-being.

COMMITTEE ON CHIROPRACTIC STANDARDS

A permanent Committee on Chiropractic Standards of Practice and Professional Conduct is appointed by the president with a mandate to:

1. Monitor state and national statutes and judicial opinions as to their real or anticipated impact on the healing arts professions and to evaluate same for appropriate inclusion in the IPSCA Chiropractic Standards of Professional Conduct.
2. Monitor developments of chiropractic education and research and other applicable health sciences and to

representing the chiropractors professional status and area of competence. Communications to the public should not appeal primarily to an individual's anxiety or create unjustified expectations of results. Any offer or advertising of free x-rays to actual or potential patients should be accompanied by a statement that, to avoid needless health hazards associated with ionizing radiation, no such free x-ray will be given unless there is a prior observable clinical need.

5. Doctors of chiropractic should continually strive to improve their skill and competency by keeping abreast of current developments contained in health and scientific literature and by participating in continuing chiropractic education programs. As a condition of membership confidence in the chiropractic profession. In this association, doctors of chiropractic shall conform to at least the minimum standards of continuing chiropractic education required by Illinois law and in accordance with relevant IPSCA standards.

III. Responsibility to the Profession.

1. Doctors of chiropractic should assist in maintaining the integrity, competency and highest standards of the chiropractic profession.
2. Doctors of chiropractic should by their behavior, avoid even the appearance of professional impropriety and should recognize that their public behavior may have an impact on the ability of the profession to serve the public. Doctors of chiropractic should promote confidence in the chiropractic profession.

to change such choice as will.

2. Doctors of chiropractic should hold themselves ready at all times to respond to the call of those needing their professional services, although they are free to accept or reject a particular patient.
3. Doctors of chiropractic should endeavor to practice with the highest degree of professional competency and honesty in the proper care of their patients.
4. Doctors of chiropractic owe loyalty, compassion and respect to their patients. Their clinical judgment and practice should be objective and exercised solely for the benefit of their patients.
5. Doctors of chiropractic should assure that the patient possesses sufficient information to enable an intelligent choice in regarding to proposed chiropractic care. The Patient should make his or her own determination on such care.
6. Doctors of chiropractic should attend their patients as often as they consider necessary to insure the well being of their patients.
7. Doctors of chiropractic should be ready to consult and seek the talents of other health care professionals when such consultation would benefit their patient or when their patients express a desire for such consultation.
8. Having accepted a patient for care, doctors of chiropractic should not neglect the patient nor terminate

professional services without taking reasonable steps to protect the patient, including providing due notice to the patient or the patient's relatives to allow sufficient time for obtaining the professional services of others, delivering to the patient all papers and documents in compliance with number nine of these standards.

9. Doctors of chiropractic should comply with the patient's authorization to provide records, or copies of such records, to those whom the patient designates as authorized to inspect or receive all or part of such records. A reasonable charge may be made for the cost of duplicating records.
10. Subject to the foregoing section nine, doctors of chiropractic should preserve and protect the patient's confidences and records, except as the patient directs or consents or the law requires. They should not discuss a patient's history, symptoms diagnosis, or care with anyone until they have received the informed consent of the patient or the patient's personal representative. They should avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of their patients.
11. Doctors of chiropractic are entitled to receive proper and reasonable compensation for their professional services commensurate with the value of the services they have rendered in light of their experience, time required, reputation and the nature of the condition. Doctors of chiropractic should support and practice in proper activities designed to enable access to necessary chiropractic care on the part of persons unable to pay such reasonable fees

12. Doctors of chiropractic should maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct and should refrain from all illegal or morally reprehensible conduct.

II. Responsibility to the Public.

1. Doctors of chiropractic should act as members of a learned profession dedicated to the promotion of health, the prevention of illness and the alleviation of suffering.
2. Doctors of chiropractic should observe the appropriate laws and regulations of governmental agencies and cooperate with pertinent activities and policies of associations legally authorized to regulate or assist in the regulation of the chiropractic profession.
3. Doctors of chiropractic should participate as responsible citizens in the public affairs of their local community, state and nation to improve law administrative procedures and public policies that pertain to chiropractic and the health care delivery system. Doctors of chiropractic should stand ready to take the initiative in the proposal and development of measures to benefit the general public health and well being, and should cooperate in the administration and enforcement of such measures and programs to the extent consistent with the law.
4. Doctors of chiropractic should exercise utmost care in the advertising of professional services, taking care that such advertisements are accurate and truthful in