

Maintaining the Identity of Chiropractic as a Drug-Free Health Care Profession

William J. Rademacher, D.C.¹ & Stephan J. Troyanovich, D.C.²

ABSTRACT

The genesis of the chiropractic profession occurred when a self-taught healer of the late nineteenth century, Daniel David Palmer, manually adjusted the upper dorsal spine of a partially deaf janitor restoring his sense of hearing. As the Founder intended, chiropractic has existed as a drug-free healthcare profession for better than 120 years. This is one of the characteristics of chiropractic that defines it as a separate and distinct entity amongst the healing arts.

The United States is currently awash in a crisis related to the over prescription of medications and the abuse of those prescription drugs. Focused upon the reduction of mechanical lesions of the spine (chiropractic subluxation), and without the use of drugs and surgery, the chiropractic profession has produced a robust quantity and quality of research that demonstrates the safety, clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and high level of patient satisfaction in select areas of healthcare.

Based upon current statistics regarding adverse drug events, prescription drug abuse and liability issues associated with

treating patients with medications, adding prescriptive rights to the profession's tool box will not likely improve either the safety or satisfaction with chiropractic care.

Adding prescriptive rights will increase costs to educate chiropractic students and will add to the costs of continuing education for practicing chiropractors. Additional costs to insure practitioners against the probability of increased litigation as a result of prescriptive rights will also add costs to practice, and, ultimately those costs will be passed along to the consuming public.

The only logical conclusion that can be reached based upon these facts is that chiropractic should remain a drug-free healing philosophy, science and art.

Key words: *Chiropractic, Drug-Related Side Effects and Adverse Reactions, Prescription Drug Misuse, Philosophy, Patient Satisfaction, Treatment Outcome*

Introduction

The genesis of the chiropractic profession occurred when a self-taught healer of the late nineteenth century, Daniel David Palmer, manually adjusted the upper dorsal spine of a partially deaf janitor, restoring his sense of hearing.¹ (Figure 1)

Palmer founded the profession of chiropractic on the hypothesis of tone of the nervous system¹ and proposed that subluxated vertebra resulted in too much or too little function of nervous transmissions.¹ As Founder of the profession, it was Palmer's purview to establish the science of chiropractic,

the art of adjusting the articulations of the skeletal system and the philosophy of chiropractic.¹ Having established the profession as a separate and distinct healing art from the existing professions of osteopathic and allopathic medicine, Palmer determined that the identity of his newly birthed profession would be practiced without the use of drugs¹ or surgery for the correction of vertebral subluxation.¹ Chiropractic has functioned under these established standards for its 120 years of existence.

1. Private Practice of Chiropractic, Bloomington, IL
2. Private Practice of Chiropractic, Normal, IL

Recently, a change in attitude has begun to invade the consciousness of many chiropractors with a growing number wishing to include the prescription of medications as part of the chiropractic scope of practice.²⁻⁵ Because chiropractic has traditionally abstained from the prescription of drugs, one must ask if adopting prescriptive rights fits with the move in health care towards patient-centered care that is defined by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as, "Relationship-based primary care that meets the individual patient and family needs, preferences, and priorities."

Rationale for Maintaining Chiropractic as a Drug-Free Profession: Patient Safety & Satisfaction

There are at least two reasons why the chiropractic scope of practice should not expand to include prescription of medications to meet the requirements of patient-centered care:

Patient safety

Studies demonstrate that 52 million people in the United States over the age of 12 have used prescription drugs recreationally in their lifetime. In 2011, 6.1 million people reported using prescription drugs for non-medical reasons in the past month. The United States makes up 5% of the world's population and consumes 75% of the world's prescription drugs.⁶ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 44 people die each day in the United States from an overdose of prescription painkillers.⁷ Annually, that means that over 16,000 people die from prescription pain medication abuse.

In its current form, chiropractic care has been shown to be clinically efficacious⁸⁻¹³, cost effective^{9,10,12-14} and safe^{15,16}, with high levels of patient satisfaction.^{8,11,15-17} Allopathic and osteopathic medicine currently fill the role of medication prescription providers. Adding prescriptive rights to the scope of practice of chiropractic will not likely lessen the epidemic of over use and abuse of prescription drugs and may likely exacerbate an already deadly plague. Why pollute chiropractic's enviable record of safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness with a treatment modality that won't improve the safety of patient care? The answer seems self-evident.

Patient Satisfaction

As described above, patients have great satisfaction with the care provided by doctors of chiropractic.^{8,11,15-17} In addition, in one randomized study of patients with acute and subacute neck pain that directly compared spinal manual methods versus medication prescription, patients reported greater satisfaction with their spinal manual care than those that received medication as treatment.¹⁸

Finally, adverse drug events result in over 700,000 emergency room visits annually and 120,000 patients are hospitalized for additional treatment after an adverse drug event.¹⁹ It is obvious that patient satisfaction with chiropractic care would be diminished by adding adverse drug events as a possible complication into the mix.

Again, one must ask why doctors of chiropractic would wish to add prescription of medications to their scope of practice

when patients prefer the care that they already provide?

Additional Rationale for Maintaining Chiropractic as a Drug-Free Profession

Liability and Malpractice

Although the issues listed above are sufficient to justify keeping the profession drug-free, there are additional reasons that may support the argument to keep prescriptive rights out of the scope of practice of doctors of chiropractic. These reasons would include liability and malpractice concerns.

Among the top ten reasons for medical malpractice claims are errors in medication administration including inadequate documentation regarding prescriptions and refills leading to patient injury or additional patient injury.^{20,21}

Malpractice insurance premium rates reflect the risk involved in various healthcare specialties. According to Mootz and Shekelle:

"Chiropractors have among the lowest malpractice insurance premiums of all physician specialties, and the percentage of chiropractic physicians who have been sued for malpractice is lower than the percentages of medical and legal professionals. Based on premium rate data provided by the National Chiropractic Mutual Insurance Company (the largest chiropractic malpractice carrier in the U.S.), average annual premium costs for chiropractic malpractice coverage in 1996 ranged from a low of \$611 in Indiana to a high of \$4,107 in Connecticut with a national average of \$2,177. This compares to average annual internal medicine premium costs ranging from a low of \$1,308 in Arkansas to over \$20,000 in Florida, Illinois, and New York."²²

Adding prescriptive rights to the scope of practice of chiropractic will no doubt result in greater risk associated with this treatment modality. As a result, chiropractic malpractice premium rates will have to rise resulting in a greater cost of the delivery of chiropractic care that will certainly be passed on to the consuming public.

Pharmacology is only a survey course in some current chiropractic curriculums. Practitioners currently in practice will need to attend additional training if they wish to add prescription of medications to their armamentarium. Pharmacology coursework will also need to be significantly bolstered in the chiropractic curricula at the various educational institutions. These increased costs of education will also necessarily be added to the cost of the delivery of chiropractic care further eroding one of the advantages of chiropractic care—namely chiropractic's cost-effectiveness.^{9,10,12-14}

Tradition & Existing Legislation

As described above, Palmer established the profession of chiropractic as a separate and distinct healing art from the existing professions of osteopathic and allopathic medicine.

Palmer determined that his healing art and science would be practiced without the use of drugs or surgery.¹

In 1935, B.J. Palmer established a research department in the B.J. Palmer Chiropractic Clinic to document improvement of patients with a wide variety of ailments presenting for chiropractic evaluation. The research department had a medical unit and chiropractic unit. In the medical unit, two "medical men" were staffed to document symptoms and pathology and derive a medical diagnosis for each patient.²³ This allowed Palmer to retain documentation in the standard medical format of the period that, he believed, validated his care of patients and provided evidence of improvements made in various human physiologic parameters as a result of chiropractic subluxation reduction.

Palmer published the results of his findings in a series of bulletins (Figure 2). Five of the bulletins issued from the research clinic covered changes in blood values,²⁴ urological values,²⁵ audiometric measures,²⁶ electrocardiographic improvements,²⁷ and basal metabolic improvements²⁸ that Palmer reported were a result of specific chiropractic adjustment of the upper cervical area.

In regards to these cases in his research clinic, Palmer stated:

"An aim of our clinic was to prove, by same methods used by medical men, all cases which came to us WERE SICK and did have conditions previously diagnosed as such by medical men, so when they got well under Chiropractic adjustments there was no way the records could renege on the facts that cases did get well of conditions proven by us to be the same as medical men had found."²³ (*author's emphasis*)

Additionally, Palmer noted emphatically that:

"The only method used to restore health to the sick was the Chiropractic principle and practice. No medication was used on any cases at any time in any way."²³

This tradition of chiropractic as a drug-free alternative to allopathic and osteopathic medicine has served as the standard for the profession for better than 120 years.

This identity of chiropractic as a drug-free profession is acknowledged/reinforced by the Association of Chiropractic Colleges,²⁹ the Chiropractic Summit^{30,31} and the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners Practice Analysis.³² Such a distinction was asserted in the "Final Report of the Identity Consultation Task Force" for the World Federation of Chiropractic.³³ A recent survey analysis of North American Chiropractic students revealed that a majority of the respondents understand this identity, as they were not in favor of changing to allopathic care by including prescription medications.³⁴ The effectiveness of drug-free chiropractic care has been acknowledged by The Joint Commission with its inclusion of chiropractic in their "nonpharmacologic strategies" for their "revisions to pain management standard effective January 1, 2015."³⁵ Further this identity is reinforced by a review of the Chiropractic Regulatory Agencies and

Laws Regarding Drugs and Surgery in 2015 (See Appendices A-G for expanded, detailed information).

Conclusion

For 120 years chiropractic has existed as a drug-free healthcare profession. This is one of the characteristics of chiropractic that defines it as a separate and distinct entity amongst the healing arts. Without the use of drugs and surgery, the chiropractic profession has produced a robust quantity and quality of research that demonstrates the safety, clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and high level of patient satisfaction in select areas of healthcare. One could argue that patient-centered care should include the chiropractic evaluation and correction of vertebral subluxation. Adding prescriptive rights to the profession's toolbox will not likely improve either the safety or satisfaction with chiropractic care. Adding prescriptive rights will increase costs to educate chiropractic students and will add to the costs of continuing education for practicing chiropractors. Additional costs to insure practitioners against the probability of increased litigation as a result of prescriptive rights will also add costs to practice, and, ultimately those costs will be passed along to the consuming public. The only logical conclusion that can be reached based upon these facts is that chiropractic should remain a drug-free healing philosophy, science and art.

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Figure 1

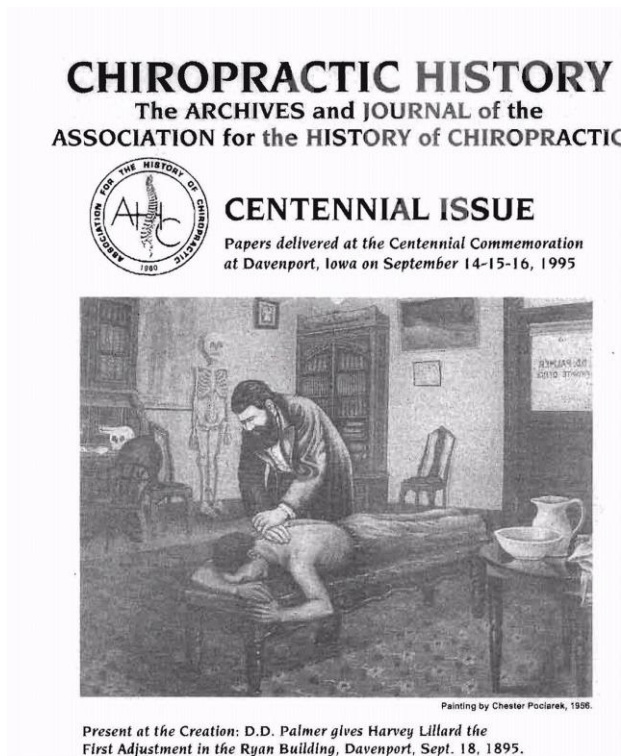


Figure 1. Artist's rendition of the first chiropractic adjustment that appeared on the cover of the centennial issue of the scholarly journal, Chiropractic History. Reproduced with permission of the Association for the History of Chiropractic.



Figure 2. Five of the bulletins issued from the B.J. Palmer Chiropractic Clinic and Research Department.

Appendix A

Association of Chiropractic Colleges

(29) Association of Chiropractic Colleges. Chiropractic Paradigm: 2.00 ACC Position on Chiropractic – “Chiropractic is a health care discipline which emphasizes the inherent recuperative power of the body to heal itself without the use of drugs or surgery.”

http://www.chirocolleges.org/paradigm_scope_practice.html

Appendix B

Chiropractic Summit

Chiropractic Summit Member Organizations

American Black Chiropractic Association

American Chiropractic Association

Association of Chiropractic Colleges

Breakthrough Coaching

Canadian Chiropractic Association

Chiropractic Economics

ChiroSecure

ChiroTouch

Cleveland Chiropractic College, Kansas City

Congress of Chiropractic State Associations

Council on Chiropractic Education (*non-voting*)

Council on Chiropractic Guidelines & Practice Parameters

David Singer Enterprises

Dynamic Chiropractic

Foot Levelers

Foundation for Chiropractic Progress

Foundation for the Advancement of Chiropractic Tenets & Science

International Chiropractors Association

Life Chiropractic College - West

Life University

Logan Chiropractic College

National Association of Chiropractic Attorneys (*non-voting*)

National Board of Chiropractic Examiners

NCMIC

New York Chiropractic College

Northwestern Health Sciences University

Palmer College of Chiropractic

Parker College of Chiropractic

Southern California University of Health Sciences

Standard Process

Student American Black Chiropractic Association (*non-voting*)

Student American Chiropractic Association (*non-voting*)

Student International Chiropractors Association (*non-voting*)

Texas Chiropractic College

The American Chiropractor

The Masters Circle

World Federation of Chiropractic

(30) Chiropractic Summit White Paper: Introduction - “Doctors of chiropractic practice an approach that includes the full range of standard case management behaviors including extensive diagnostic responsibilities, technologies and skills, without the use of drugs or surgery.” 2009. P. 5. http://www.chirosummit.org/files/final_summit_paper.pdf

(31) Chiropractic Summit Promotes Drug-Free Approach to Health Care - Nov. 14, 2013

“The drug issue is a non-issue because no chiropractic organization in the Summit promotes the inclusion of prescription drug rights and all chiropractic organizations in the Summit support the drug-free approach to health care.”

<http://www.chirosummit.org/>

<http://chirosummit.org/uploads/13-Nov-14-Summit-Press-Release.pdf>

Appendix C

National Board of Chiropractic Examiners

(32) National Board of Chiropractic Examiners – Practice Analysis of Chiropractic 2015

“As one of health care’s fastest growing professions on a global basis, chiropractic has earned recognition for its remarkable effectiveness and its use of natural, nonsurgical, and drugless methods of treatment.”

(Chapter 1, “The Chiropractic Profession,” p. 1)

(33) “Chiropractic is a natural, conservative, medication-free, and nonsurgical form of health care concerned primarily with the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disorders of the musculoskeletal system and the effects of these disorders on the nervous system and general health.” (Chapter 1, “Principles of Chiropractic,” p. 4)

<https://www.nbce.org/practiceanalysis/> (download PDF of this report)

Appendix D

World Federation of Chiropractic

https://www.wfc.org/website/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=64&Itemid=93&lang=en

International Identity

The public identity of the chiropractic profession, if it is to be effective and successful, should be similar in all countries.

Three Concepts

This identity should be established and maintained through the use of the following three linked concepts:

- A leading statement on identity, which must be clear, concise and immediately relevant to both the public and the profession – the ‘pole’ (brand platform).
- Several important qualifying statements, which provide the necessary context and foundation for the pole – the ‘ground’ (brand pillars).
- A description of the qualities or essential personality of chiropractors – the ‘personality’ (tone).

The Pole (brand platform)

The pole should be The spinal health care experts in the health care system.

The Ground (brand pillars)

The ground should be:

- Ability to improve function in the neuromusculoskeletal system, and overall health, wellbeing and quality of life.
- Specialized approach to examination, diagnosis and treatment, based on best available research and clinical evidence with particular emphasis on the relationship between the spine and the nervous system
- Tradition of effectiveness and patient satisfaction
- Without use of drugs and surgery, enabling patients to avoid these where possible
- Expertly qualified providers of spinal adjustment, manipulation and other manual treatments, exercise instruction and patient education.
- Collaboration with other health professionals
- A patient-centered and biopsychosocial approach, emphasizing the mind/body relationship in health, the self-healing powers of the individual, and individual responsibility for health and encouraging patient independence.

Appendix E

Joint Commission

(35) “Revisions to the Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services standard PC.01.02.07 – which addresses pain management – will be effective January 1, 2015. Following an extensive literature review, The Joint Commission revised the rationale and added a note to element of performance (EP) 4.”

“The identification and management of pain is an important component of [patient]-centered care. Nonpharmacologic strategies: physical modalities (for example, acupuncture therapy, chiropractic therapy, osteopathic manipulative treatment...)”

http://www.jointcommission.org/issues/article.aspx?Article=5jrML/bvKl4ATIYK2naEubuQGABzkaljf6n8eP%2BdPuQ%3D&j=2331672&e=mhandel%40chpnet.org&l=9552_HTML&u=38589574&mid=1064717&jb=0#.VGPFtmczHn0.facebook

Appendix F

Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards

The Articles of Incorporation of the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards

4. The corporation is organized to operate exclusively within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) for charitable and educational purposes and for the purpose of lessening burdens on government, and, more specifically: to provide programs and services that assist member chiropractic licensing boards fulfill their statutory obligations to regulate the profession in the interest of public protection. These programs and services shall include, but not be limited to, those that promote uniform standards among licensing boards, examination and testing services, and educational programs teaching chiropractic (including those leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree, postgraduate chiropractic education, diplomate and certification programs, and continuing education for relicensure purposes.)

<http://www.fclb.org/AboutFCLB/ArticlesofIncorporation.aspx>

WHAT We Do...

The purpose of the FCLB is to protect the public and to serve our member boards by promoting excellence in chiropractic regulation.

<http://www.fclb.org/AboutFCLB.aspx>

- BYLAWS -

ARTICLE II

Purpose: The Federation is organized for charitable and educational purposes to provide programs and services that assist member chiropractic licensing boards to fulfill their statutory obligations to regulate the profession in the interest of public protection and for the purpose of lessening the burdens of government.

These programs and services shall include, but not be limited to, those that promote uniform standards among licensing boards, examination and testing services, and chiropractic educational programs leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree, postgraduate chiropractic education, diplomate and certification programs, and continuing education for relicensure purposes.

<http://www.fclb.org/AboutFCLB/Bylaws.aspx>

*Protect the public by delivering safe, effective care

Why Develop this Program?

2. It is imperative that chiropractors show commitment to quality and standardization of healthcare protocols for a solid position in the future of healthcare.

<http://www.fclb.org/ChiroAssistants.aspx>

Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards

PACE – Providers of Approved Continuing Education

Policies & Procedures

1. PACE'S Mission

D. Protecting the public through advancements in chiropractic education. (p. 1)

FCLB PACE Criteria for Quality Continuing Education

V. EDUCATIONAL COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Criterion 16. Subject Matter

The provider shall ensure that its continuing education program addresses topics pertinent to contemporary chiropractic art, science, philosophy or practice.

Subject matter shall be evidence-based, authority-based or tradition-based and shall be credible, academically rigorous and presented in a balanced manner.

(p. 19)

Criterion 20. Protection of Live Models

The provider shall be responsible for protecting the health, safety and welfare of any person whose body is used to demonstrate clinical techniques or procedures as part of a continuing education course. (p. 21)

<http://pacex.fclb.org/DocumentsDownloads.aspx>

Appendix G

Chiropractic Regulatory Agencies and Laws Regarding Drugs and Surgery 2015

Alabama

Section 34-24-120

"Chiropractic" defined; authority of licensed chiropractor.

(a) The term "chiropractic," when used in this article, is hereby defined as the science and art of locating and removing without the use of drugs or surgery any interference with the transmission and expression of nerve energy in the human body by any means or methods as taught in schools or colleges of chiropractic which are recognized by the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

(b) Any chiropractor who has been certified and licensed by the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners may examine, analyze, and diagnose the human body and its diseases by the use of any physical, clinical, thermal, or radonic method, and the use of X-ray diagnosing, and may use any other general method of examination for diagnosis and analysis taught in any school of chiropractic recognized by the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

(c) Chiropractors certified and licensed by the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners may practice chiropractic as set forth in subsections (a) and (b) of this section and may also recommend the use of foods and concentrates, food extracts, and may apply first aid and hygiene, but chiropractors are expressly prohibited from prescribing or administering to any person any drugs included in materia medica, except as herein provided, from performing any surgery, from practicing obstetrics or from giving X-ray treatments or treatments involving the use of radioactive materials of any description.

(Acts 1959, No. 108, p. 612, §1; Acts 1989, No. 89-237, p. 321, §2.)

Alaska

ARTICLE 4.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Section 230. Practice of chiropractic

900. Definitions

Sec. 08.20.900. Definitions. In this chapter,

(3) "chiropractic" is the clinical science of human health and disease that focuses on the detection, correction, and prevention of the subluxation complex and the employment of physiological therapeutic procedures preparatory to and complementary with the correction of the subluxation complex for the purpose of enhancing the body's inherent recuperative powers, without the use of surgery or prescription drugs; the primary therapeutic vehicle of chiropractic is chiropractic adjustment;

Arizona

32-925. Practice of chiropractic; limitations

B. A doctor of chiropractic licensed under this chapter shall not prescribe or administer medicine or drugs, perform surgery or practice obstetrics.

Arkansas

ARKANSAS STATUTES CHIROPRACTIC SECTION

17-81-102. Definitions.

(6) (A) 'Practice of chiropractic' means the engagement in the diagnosis and analysis of any interference with normal nerve transmission and expression, and the procedure preparatory to and complementary to the correction thereof by an adjustment of the articulations of the vertebral column, its immediate articulations, including spinal adjustments, spinal manipulations and spinal mobilizations, such as any type of pressure, force, thrust or passive movement, singular or plural, applied to the spinal vertebrae or their adjacent articulations by hand or mechanical device or by other incidental adjustments, for the restoration and maintenance of health. The practice of chiropractic includes therapy, the normal regimen, and rehabilitation of the patient for the purpose of removing any injury, deformity or abnormality of human beings without the use of drugs or surgery.

(B) The practice of chiropractic, as authorized under the provisions of this chapter, shall not include the performance of the duties of a midwife or obstetrician, therapy by the use of ionizing radiation, incisive surgery, prescribing for or administering to any person any drug to be taken internally, or puncturing the skin for the purpose of introducing any substance into the body. Nothing herein shall prevent puncturing the skin for routine blood analysis, including red blood count, white blood count, differential and serology, in the practice of chiropractic for diagnostic purposes;

California

§302. Practice of Chiropractic.

(a) Scope of Practice.

(4) A chiropractic license issued in the State of California does not authorize the holder thereof:

(A) to practice surgery or to sever or penetrate tissues of human beings, including, but not limited to severing the umbilical cord;

(E) to use any drug or medicine included in materia medica;

Colorado

Rule 7 Scope of Practice

A. Practices that are not within the scope of chiropractic practice and invoke the duty to refer provision in Section 12-33-117 (1) (bb), C.R.S., include, but are not limited to:

3. Surgery.

4. Administration of anesthetics, with the exception of topical or over-the-counter anesthetics.

5. Prescription of drugs not referenced in Rule 7 C.

C. Nutritional Remedial Measures as referenced in Section 12-33-102(1), C.R.S., means that a doctor of chiropractic may administer, prescribe, recommend, compound, sell and distribute homeopathic and botanical medicines, vitamins, minerals, phytonutrients, antioxidants, enzymes, glandular extracts, non-prescription drugs, durable and non-durable medical goods and devices.

Connecticut

Sec. 20-28. Examination. Scope of practice. (a) The examination provided for in section 20-27 shall consist of both a written and practical examination. The subjects of the written examination shall be as follows: Anatomy, physiology, symptomatology, histology, vertebral palpation, principles of chiropractic and adjusting, chemistry, hygiene, pathology, dietetics and diagnosis. The national board tests of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners may be accepted as the written examination provided it includes physiotherapy. The practical examination shall require the candidate to demonstrate clinical competency in basic chiropractic principles and procedures, including orthopedics, neurology, diagnosis, x-ray, vertebral palpation and adjustment.

(b) Any chiropractor who has complied with the provisions of this chapter may:

(1) Practice chiropractic as defined in section 20-24, but shall not prescribe for or administer to any person any medicine or drug included in materia medica, except vitamins, or perform any surgery or practice obstetrics or osteopathy;

Delaware

TITLE 24

Professions and Occupations

CHAPTER 7. BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC

701 Chiropractic defined; limitation of chiropractic license.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the practice of chiropractic does not include the use of drugs, surgery or obstetrical or gynecological examinations or treatment.

District of Columbia

District of Columbia Municipal Regulations for Chiropractic

4811 SCOPE OF PRACTICE

4811.1 A chiropractor who is licensed to practice in the District of Columbia under the provisions of this chapter may provide the following chiropractic services:

(a) Locating, diagnosing, and analyzing subluxated vertebrae as follows:

(1) By x-ray of the spinal column;

(2) By physical examination; and

(3) By employing other non-invasive procedures such as MRI and CAT scan;

(b) Correcting vertebral subluxation displacement by applying specific localized force to the spine; (c) Advising patients about diet, exercise and stress;

(d) Referring patients for specialized diagnostic testing, which may be necessary for chiropractic treatment or patient safety;

(e) Referring patients to other healthcare practitioners as deemed necessary by the chiropractor; and

(f) Diagnosing and treating bodily articulations by means of manipulation or adjustments.

4811.2 A chiropractor who is certified by the Board to perform ancillary procedures pursuant to § 4803.3 may perform any physiotherapy for which the chiropractor has received specialized training at a program or institution listed in § 4807.1 as long as the physiotherapy is preparatory and complementary to chiropractic care.

Florida

The 2014 Florida Statutes

Title XXXII

REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

Chapter 460

CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE

460.403 Definitions.

(9)(a) "Practice of chiropractic medicine" means

(c)1. Chiropractic physicians may adjust, manipulate, or treat the human body by manual, mechanical, electrical, or natural methods; by the use of physical means or physiotherapy, including light, heat, water, or exercise; by the use of acupuncture; or by the administration of foods, food concentrates, food extracts, and items for which a prescription is not required and may apply first aid and hygiene, but chiropractic physicians are expressly prohibited from prescribing or administering to any person any legend drug except as authorized under subparagraph 2., from performing any surgery except as stated herein, or from practicing obstetrics.

2. Notwithstanding the prohibition against prescribing and administering legend drugs under subparagraph 1. or s. [499.83\(2\)\(c\)](#), pursuant to board rule chiropractic physicians may order, store, and administer, for emergency purposes only at the chiropractic physician's office or place of business, prescription medical oxygen and may also order, store, and administer the following topical anesthetics in aerosol form:

a. Any solution consisting of 25 percent ethylchloride and 75 percent dichlorodifluoromethane.

b. Any solution consisting of 15 percent dichlorodifluoromethane and 85 percent trichloromonofluoromethane.

Georgia

43-9-1. Definitions As used in this chapter, the term:

(1) "Board" means the Georgia Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

(2) "Chiropractic" means the adjustment of the articulations of the human body, including ilium, sacrum, and coccyx, and the use of X-ray, provided that the X-ray shall not be used for therapeutical purposes. The term "chiropractic" shall also mean that separate and distinct branch of the healing arts whose science and art utilize the inherent recuperative powers of the body and the relationship between the musculoskeletal structures and functions of the body, particularly of the spinal column and the nervous system, in the restoration and maintenance of health. Chiropractic is a learned profession which teaches that the relationship between structure and function in the human body is a significant health factor and that such relationships between the spinal column and the nervous system are most significant, since the normal transmission and expression of nerve energy are essential to the restoration and maintenance of health. However, the term "chiropractic" shall not include the use of drugs or surgery.

Hawaii

HRS CHAPTER 442 - CHIROPRACTORS

442-8 License form, authority under. One form of license shall be issued which shall be designated "License to Practice Chiropractic" and which shall authorize the holder thereof to practice chiropractic as defined in section 442-1 and also to use all necessary mechanical, hygienic, and sanitary measures incident to the care of the body, but shall not authorize the administration of drugs or medicine now or hereafter included in materia medica, or the performance of any surgical operation or the practice of osteopathy, dentistry, or optometry; provided that a holder of a license which has been limited, restricted, or placed under probation may practice chiropractic only within the limitation, restriction, or terms of probation.

Idaho

TITLE 54

PROFESSIONS, VOCATIONS, AND BUSINESSES

CHAPTER 7

CHIROPRACTIC PRACTICE ACT

54-704. CHIROPRACTIC PRACTICE. Chiropractic practice and procedures which may be employed by physicians are as follows:

(2) Nothing herein contained shall allow any physician to:

(a) Perform surgical operations or practice obstetrics;

(b) Direct or suggest to the patient that such patient shall use a substance which, under federal law is required, prior to being dispensed or delivered, to be labeled with either of the following statements: (i) "Caution: Federal Law Prohibits Dispensing Without Prescription"; or (ii) "Caution: Federal Law Restricts This Drug To Use By or On The Order Of A Licensed Veterinarian"; or (iii) a product which is required by any applicable federal or state law regulation to be dispensed on prescription only or is restricted to use by practitioners only.

(3) Chiropractic practice, as herein defined is hereby declared not to be the practice of medicine within the meaning of the laws of the state of Idaho defining the same, and physicians licensed pursuant to this chapter shall not be subject to the provisions of [chapter 18, title 54](#), Idaho Code, nor liable to any prosecution thereunder, when acting within the scope of practice as defined in this chapter.

Illinois

PROFESSIONS, OCCUPATIONS, AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

(225 ILCS 60/) Medical Practice Act of 1987.

(225 ILCS 60/2) (from Ch. 111, par. 4400-2)

Sec. 2. Definitions. For purposes of this Act, the following definitions shall have the following meanings, except where the context requires otherwise:

"Chiropractic physician" means a person licensed to treat human ailments without the use of drugs and without operative surgery. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit a chiropractic physician from providing advice regarding the use of non-prescription products or from administering atmospheric oxygen. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize a chiropractic physician to prescribe drugs.

Indiana

INDIANA CODE 25-10-1

Chapter 1. Regulation of Chiropractors - Creation of Board

IC 25-10-1-1 Definitions

Sec. 1. As used in this article:

(1) "Chiropractic" means the diagnosis and analysis of any interference with normal nerve transmission and expression, the procedure preparatory to and complementary to the correction thereof by an adjustment of the articulations of the vertebral column, its immediate articulation, and includes other incidental means of adjustments of the spinal column and the practice of drugless therapeutics. However, chiropractic does not include any of the following:

(A) Prescription or administration of legend drugs or other controlled substances.

(B) Performing of incisive surgery or internal or external cauterization.

Iowa

Iowa Code - 2015

Title IV - PUBLIC HEALTH

Chapter 151 - CHIROPRACTIC

151.5 Operative surgery — drugs.

A license to practice chiropractic shall not authorize the licensee to practice operative surgery or administer or prescribe prescription drugs or controlled substances which can only be prescribed by persons authorized by law.

Kansas

Chiropractic Doctors:

"Persons who examine, analyze and diagnose the human living body, and its diseases by the use of any physical, thermal or manual method and use the X-ray diagnosis and analysis taught in any accredited chiropractic school or college and (b) persons who adjust any misplaced tissue of any kind or nature, manipulate or treat the human body by manual, mechanical, electrical or natural methods or by the use of physical means, physiotherapy (including light, heat, water or exercise), or by the use of foods, food concentrates, or food extract, or who apply first aid and hygiene, but chiropractors are expressly prohibited from prescribing or administering to any person medicine or drugs in materia medica, or from performing any surgery, as hereinabove stated, or from practicing obstetrics." [K.S.A. 65-2871\(a\)](#)

Kentucky

312.017 Types of treatment prohibited -- Scope and methods of chiropractic treatment -- Referral of patients.

(1) No chiropractor shall:

- (a) Treat or attempt to treat contagious or communicable diseases;
- (b) Treat or attempt to treat cancer;
- (c) Treat by use of x-ray or radiological methods;
- (d) Perform surgery;
- (e) Treat or attempt to treat by use of acupuncture; or
- (f) Administer prescription drugs or controlled substances.

Louisiana

RS 37:2801

CHAPTER 36. CHIROPRACTORS PART I. GENERAL

2801. Definitions As used in this Chapter:

(3)(a) "Practice of chiropractic"

(c) The practice of chiropractic does not include the right to prescribe, dispense, or administer medicine or drugs, or to engage in the practice of major or minor surgery, obstetrics, X-ray therapy, radium therapy, or nuclear medicine. For purposes of this Chapter, the terms "medicine" and "drugs" shall not include orthotic devices, vitamin, mineral, and nutritional supplements, therapeutic devices, postural modification equipment, exercise equipment, or homeopathic remedies. Any chiropractor applying to practice acupuncture shall comply with the provisions of R.S. 37:1358.

Maine

Title 32: PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS

Chapter 9: CHIROPRACTORS

Subchapter 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

451. Definitions

3. Chiropractic methodologies. "Chiropractic methodologies" utilized for the identification or correction of subluxation and the accompanying physiological or mechanical abnormalities include diagnostic, therapeutic, adjustive or manipulative techniques utilized within the chiropractic profession, excluding prescriptive medication or surgery.

Maryland

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS TITLE 3. CHIROPRACTORS

SUBTITLE 1. DEFINITIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS

Md. HEALTH OCCUPATIONS Code Ann. § 3-101 (2014)

3-101. Definitions

(f) Practice chiropractic. –

(1) "Practice chiropractic" means to use a drugless system of health care based on the principle that interference with the transmission of nerve impulses may cause disease.

(2) "Practice chiropractic" includes the diagnosing and locating of misaligned or displaced vertebrae and, through the manual manipulation and adjustment of the spine and other skeletal structures, treating disorders of the human body.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this title, "practice chiropractic" does not include the use of drugs or surgery, or the practice of osteopathy, obstetrics, or any other branch of medicine.

Massachusetts

General Laws, Chapter 112, Section 89 Definitions

"Chiropractic", the science of locating, and removing interference with the transmission or expression of nerve force in the human body, by the correction of misalignments or subluxations of the bony articulation and adjacent structures, more especially those of the vertebra column and pelvis, for the purpose of restoring and maintaining health. It shall exclude operative surgery, prescription or use of drugs or medicines, the practice of obstetrics, the treatment of infectious diseases, and internal examinations whether or not diagnostic instruments are used except that the X-ray and analytical instruments may be used solely for the purposes of chiropractic examinations. Nothing in this definition shall exclude the use of supportive procedures and therapy, including braces, traction, heat, cold, sound, electricity, and dietary and nutritional advice, as treatment supplemental to a chiropractic adjustment.

Michigan

PUBLIC HEALTH CODE Act 368 of 1978

333.16401 Definitions; scope; principles of construction.

(2) The practice of chiropractic does not include any of the following:

(a) The performance of any procedure that cuts or punctures the skin.

(b) The dispensing or prescribing of drugs or medicine.

Minnesota

CHIROPRACTIC PRACTICE ACT - MINNESOTA STATUTES (Rev. August 1, 2014)

148.01 CHIROPRACTIC.

Subdivision 1. Definitions.

(1) "chiropractic" is defined as the science of adjusting any abnormal articulations of the human body, especially those of the spinal column, for the purpose of giving freedom of action to impinged nerves that may cause pain or deranged function; and means the health care discipline that recognizes the innate recuperative power of the body to heal itself without the use of drugs or surgery by identifying and caring for vertebral subluxations and other abnormal articulations by emphasizing the relationship between structure and function as coordinated by the nervous system and how that relationship affects the preservation and restoration of health;

Mississippi

SECTION 1. SECTION 73-6-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended and reenacted as follows:

73-6-1. (1) The practice of chiropractic involves the analysis of any interference with normal nerve transmission and expression, and the procedure preparatory to and complementary to the correction thereof, by adjustment and/or manipulation of the articulations of the vertebral column and its immediate articulations for the restoration and maintenance of health without the use of drugs or surgery.

Missouri

331.010. 1. The "practice of chiropractic" is defined as the science and art of examination, diagnosis, adjustment, manipulation and treatment both in inpatient and outpatient settings, by those methods commonly taught in any chiropractic college or chiropractic program in a university which has been accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education, its successor entity or approved by the board. It shall not include the use of operative surgery, obstetrics, osteopathy, podiatry, nor the administration or prescribing of any drug or medicine nor the practice of medicine. The practice of chiropractic is declared not to be the practice of medicine and operative surgery or osteopathy within the meaning of chapter 334 and not subject to the provisions of the chapter.

Montana

37-12-101. Definitions -- practice of chiropractic.

(3) "Chiropractic" is the system of specific adjustment or manipulation of the articulations and tissues of the body, particularly of the spinal column, for the correction of nerve interference and includes the use of recognized diagnostic and treatment methods as taught in chiropractic colleges but does not include surgery or the prescription or use of drugs.

Nebraska

38-805. Practice of chiropractic, defined. (1) Practice of chiropractic means one or a combination of the following, without the use of drugs or surgery:

Nevada

PROHIBITED ACTS; PENALTIES

NRS 634.220 Construction of chapter. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to permit a chiropractor to practice medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, optometry or podiatry, or to administer or prescribe drugs.

NRS 634.225 Chiropractor prohibited from piercing or severing body tissue; exception. A chiropractor shall not pierce or sever any body tissue, except to draw blood for diagnostic purposes.

New Hampshire

316-A:1 Definition. – The science of chiropractic deals with the analysis of any interference with normal nerve transmission and expression, the procedure preparatory to, and complementary to the correction thereof, by an adjustment of the articulations of the vertebral column and its immediate articulations for the restoration and maintenance of health; it includes the normal regimen and rehabilitation of the patient using the procedures which are currently taught in accredited chiropractic colleges at the time of matriculation without the use of drugs, surgery, or colonic irrigation. The term analysis is construed to include physical examination, the use of x-ray and other analytical instruments generally used in the practice of chiropractic. The terms adjustment, manipulation, and subluxation are primary to the practice of chiropractic and shall therefore be specifically defined in rules adopted by the board of chiropractic examiners.

New Jersey

45:9-14.5 Definitions relative to practice of chiropractic.

"Prescription" means a written direction of remedy for a disease, illness or injury and the instructions for using that remedy.

b. A licensed chiropractor shall have the right in the examination of patients to use the neurocalometer, X-ray, and other necessary instruments solely for the purpose of diagnosis or analysis. No licensed chiropractor shall perform endoscopy, or prescribe, administer, or dispense drugs or medicines for any purpose whatsoever, or perform surgery as requires cutting by instruments or laser excepting adjustment of the articulations of the spinal column or extremities.

New Mexico

16.4.1.7 DEFINITIONS:

A. "Chiropractic" means the science, art and philosophy of things natural, the science of locating and removing interference with the transmissions or expression of nerve forces in the human body by the correction of misalignments or subluxations of the articulations and adjacent structures, more especially those of the vertebral column and pelvis, for the purpose of restoring and maintaining health for treatment of human disease primarily by, but not limited to, adjustment and manipulation of the human structure. It shall include, but not be limited to, the prescription and administration of all natural agents in all forms to assist in the healing act, such as food, water, heat, cold, electricity, mechanical appliances, herbs, nutritional supplements, homeopathic remedies and any necessary diagnostic procedure, excluding invasive procedures, except as provided by the board by rule and regulation. It shall exclude operative surgery and prescription or use of controlled or dangerous drugs, except as permitted by statute and corresponding regulation.

61-4-2. Definitions. (Repealed effective July 1, 2016.)

As used in the Chiropractic Physician Practice Act:

- A. "advanced practice chiropractic certification registry" means a compendium kept by the board that meets and maintains the board's established credentials for certified advanced practice chiropractic physicians;
- B. "certified advanced practice chiropractic physician" means a chiropractic physician who has been included in the advanced practice chiropractic certification registry;
- C. "chiropractic" means the science, art and philosophy of things natural, the science of locating and removing interference with the transmissions or expression of nerve forces in the human body by the correction of misalignments or subluxations of the articulations and adjacent structures, more especially those of the vertebral column and pelvis, for the purpose of restoring and maintaining health for treatment of human disease primarily by, but not limited to, adjustment and manipulation of the human structure. It shall include, but not be limited to, the prescribing and administering of all natural agents to assist in the healing act, such as food, water, heat, cold, electricity, mechanical appliances and medical devices; the selling of herbs, nutritional supplements and homeopathic remedies; the administering of a drug by injection by a certified advanced practice chiropractic physician; and any necessary diagnostic procedure, excluding invasive procedures, except as provided by the board by rule and regulation. It shall exclude operative surgery, the prescription or use of controlled or dangerous drugs and the practice of acupuncture;
- D. "board" means the chiropractic board;
- E. "chiropractic physician" includes doctor of chiropractic, chiropractor and chiropractic physician and means a person who practices chiropractic as defined in the Chiropractic Physician Practice Act; and
- F. "chiropractic assistant" means a person who practices under the on-premises supervision of a licensed chiropractic physician.

New York

Article 132, Chiropractic

6551. Definition of practice of chiropractic.

3. A license to practice chiropractic shall not permit the holder thereof to treat for any infectious diseases such as pneumonia, any communicable diseases listed in the sanitary code of the state of New York, any of the cardio-vascular-renal or cardio-pulmonary diseases, any surgical condition of the abdomen such as acute appendicitis, or diabetes, or any benign or malignant neoplasms; to operate; to reduce fractures or dislocations; to prescribe, administer, dispense or use in his practice drugs or medicines; or to use diagnostic or therapeutic methods involving chemical or biological means except diagnostic services performed by clinical laboratories which services shall be approved by the board as appropriate to the practice of chiropractic; or to utilize electrical devices except those devices approved by the board as being appropriate to the practice of chiropractic. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit a licensed chiropractor who has successfully completed a registered doctoral program in chiropractic, which contains courses of study in nutrition satisfactory to the department, from using nutritional counseling, including the dispensing of food concentrates, food extracts, vitamins, minerals, and other nutritional supplements approved by the board as being appropriate to, and as a part of, his or her practice of chiropractic. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit an individual who is not subject to regulation in this state as a licensed chiropractor from engaging in nutritional counseling.

North Carolina

90-151. Extent and limitation of license.

Any person obtaining a license from the Board of Chiropractic Examiners shall have the right to practice the science known as chiropractic, in accordance with the method, thought, and practice of chiropractors, as taught in recognized chiropractic schools and colleges, but shall not prescribe for or administer to any person any medicine or drugs, nor practice osteopathy or surgery.

North Dakota

43-06-01. Definitions.

The practice of chiropractic does not include prescribing for or administering to any person any medicine or drug to be taken internally which is now or hereafter included in materia medica, nor performing any surgery, except as is provided in this section, nor practicing obstetrics.

Ohio

Ohio Revised Code Title [47] XLVII OCCUPATIONS – PROFESSIONS Chapter 4734: CHIROPRACTORS

4734.15 Scope of practice of chiropractic - permissible titles.

(A) The license provided for in this chapter shall entitle the holder thereof to practice chiropractic in this state. All of the following apply to the practice of chiropractic in this state:

(2) The practice of chiropractic does not permit a chiropractor to treat infectious, contagious, or venereal disease, to perform surgery, or to prescribe or administer drugs for treatment.

Oklahoma

PART I Text of Title 59, Section 161.1 The Oklahoma Chiropractic Practice Act

Section 161.12 - Grounds for Imposing Penalties.

B. The following acts or occurrences by a chiropractic physician shall constitute grounds for which the penalties specified in subsection A of this section may be imposed by order of the Board:

5. Performing or attempting to perform major or minor surgery in this state, or using electricity in any form for surgical purposes, including cauterization;

7. Unlawfully possessing, prescribing or administering any drug, medicine, serum or vaccine. This section shall not prevent a chiropractic physician from possessing, prescribing or administering, by a needle or otherwise, vitamins, minerals or nutritional supplements, or from practicing within the scope of the science and art of chiropractic as defined in Section 161.2 of this title;

Part II -TITLE 140. BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE CONSIDERED FINALLY ADOPTED AS SET FORTH IN 75 O.S.,

SECTION 308.1(A), WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF AUGUST 25, 2013:

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

140:1-1-2. Definitions

"Scope of practice" Nothing in this rule shall permit a Chiropractic Physician to prescribe legend drugs, beyond injectable nutrients, as is currently the law in Title 59 Section 161.12 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

Oregon

684.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(2) "Chiropractic" is defined as:

(a) That system of adjusting with the hands the articulations of the bony framework of the human body, and the employment and practice of physiotherapy, electrotherapy, hydrotherapy and minor surgery.

(4) "Drugs" means all medicines and preparations and all substances, except over-the-counter nonprescription substances, food, water and nutritional supplements taken orally, used or intended to be used for the diagnosis, cure, treatment, mitigation or prevention of diseases or abnormalities of humans, which are recognized in the latest editions of the official United States Pharmacopoeia, official Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia, official National Formulary, or any supplement to any of them, or otherwise established as drugs.

(5) "Minor surgery" means the use of electrical or other methods for the surgical repair and care incident thereto of superficial lacerations and abrasions, benign superficial lesions, and the removal of foreign bodies located in the superficial structures; and the use of antiseptics and local anesthetics in connection therewith.

684.015 Prohibited practices.

(3) No person practicing under this chapter shall administer or write prescriptions for, or dispense drugs, practice optometry or naturopathic medicine or do major surgery.

Pennsylvania

CHAPTER 1 – PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Section 102. Definitions.

“Chiropractic.” A branch of the healing arts dealing with the relationship between the articulations of the vertebral column, as well as other.... The term shall not include the practice of obstetrics or gynecology, the reduction of fractures or major dislocations, or the use of drugs or surgery.

Rhode Island

TITLE 5 Businesses and Professions CHAPTER 5-30 Chiropractic Physicians SECTION 5-30-1

§ 5-30-1 "Chiropractic medicine" defined. – For the purpose of this chapter, the practice of "chiropractic medicine" is defined as the science and art of mechanical and material healing as follows: the employment of a system of palpating and adjusting the articulations of the human spinal column and its appendages, by hand and electro-mechanical appliances, and the employment of corrective orthopedics and dietetics for the elimination of the cause of disease; provided, that chiropractic physicians may not write prescriptions for drugs for internal medication nor practice major surgery as defined in chapter 37 of this title.

South Carolina

Title 40 - Professions and Occupations CHAPTER 9 Chiropractors and Chiropractic SECTION 40-9-10. Definitions.

(b) "Chiropractic practice" is defined as the spinal analysis of any interference with normal nerve transmission and expression, and by adjustment to the articulations of the vertebral column and its immediate articulations for the restoration and maintenance of health and the normal regimen and rehabilitation of the patient without the use of drugs or surgery.

South Dakota

36-5-1. Scope of practice--Limitations--Inapplicability to physicians. Chiropractic is the science of locating and removing the cause of any abnormal transmission of nerve energy including diagnostic and applied mechanical measures incident thereto. Integral to chiropractic is the treating of specific joints and articulations of the body and adjacent tissues, to influence joints or neurophysiological functions of the body, or both, including the use of examination and treatment by manipulation, adjustment, and mobilization of a joint. No chiropractor may practice obstetrics or treat communicable diseases. The requirements of this section do not apply to those licensed pursuant to chapter 36-4.

36-4-8. Practice of medicine without a license, certificate, or permit as misdemeanor. Any person who practices medicine, osteopathy, or any of the branches thereof without a license, certificate, or permit issued by the board is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

36-4-8.2. Surgery constituting practice of medicine. Surgery constituting the practice of medicine includes the use of a laser or ionizing radiation for the purpose of cutting or otherwise altering human tissue for diagnostic, palliative, or therapeutic purposes.

36-4-9. Use of title and other acts constituting practice of medicine. For the purpose of this chapter, "practice of medicine or osteopathy" includes, but not by way of limitation, to append or prefix the letters M.D., or D.O. or the title of Doctor or Dr. or Specialist or Osteopath or any other sign or appellation in a medical sense to one's name or to profess publicly to be a physician or surgeon or to recommend, prescribe or direct for the use of any person any drug, medicine, apparatus, or other agency for the cure, relief or palliation of any ailment or disease of the mind or body or the cure or relief of any wound, fracture or bodily injury or deformity.

36-4-18. Grant of license to practice--Type of practice stated on license. To each applicant successfully passing the examination required by this chapter and fulfilling all other requirements of this chapter, the Board of Examiners shall grant a license to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine, surgery, and obstetrics in all of their branches, without limitations, in this state, but each license so granted shall state on the face thereof whether the licensee is licensed to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery. Such license shall be granted only by consent of the majority of the board.

Tennessee

Title 63 Professions Of The Healing Arts Chapter 4 Chiropractors

Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-4-101 (2015)

63-4-101. "Chiropractic" and "Chiropractic physician" defined -- Education and clinical training -- Scope of practice.

(a) The term "chiropractic" where used in this chapter is defined as the science and art of locating and removing interference with nerve transmission and nerve function. A chiropractic physician diagnoses and treats neuromuscular and musculoskeletal conditions through physical agent modalities and manipulative therapies. The adjustment, manipulation or treatment shall be directed toward restoring and maintaining the normal neuromuscular and musculoskeletal function and health of the patient. A chiropractic physician will also make appropriate health referrals for conditions that may not be treated by physical agent modalities and manipulative therapies. Patient care shall be conducted with due regard for nutrition, environment, hygiene, sanitation and rehabilitation designed to assist in the restoration and maintenance of the patient's health. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize the chiropractic physician to practice any branch of medicine osteopathy, as defined in chapters 6 and 9 of this title, or surgery, including venipuncture or the prescribing of medication, acupuncture being the exception.

Texas

TITLE 3. HEALTH PROFESSIONS

SUBTITLE C. OTHER PROFESSIONS PERFORMING MEDICAL PROCEDURES

CHAPTER 201. CHIROPRACTORS SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 201.002. PRACTICE OF CHIROPRACTIC. (a) In this section:

(c) the practice of chiropractic does not include:

- (1) incisive or surgical procedures;
- (2) the prescription of controlled substances, dangerous drugs, or any other drug that requires a prescription;

Utah

Part 6 - Scope of Practice - Division Regulation

58-73-601. Scope of practice for a chiropractic physician.

(3) A chiropractic physician may not:

- (a) perform incisive surgery;
- (b) administer drugs or medicines for which an authorized prescription is required by law except as provided in Subsection (2)(d);

Vermont

Title 26: Professions And Occupations Chapter 10: Chiropractic

Subchapter 1: General Provisions

521. Definitions

(3) "The practice of chiropractic" means the diagnosis of human ailments and diseases related to subluxations, joint dysfunctions, and neuromuscular and skeletal disorders for the purpose of their detection, correction, or referral in order to restore and maintain health, including pain relief, without providing drugs or performing surgery; the use of physical and clinical examinations, conventional radiologic procedures and interpretation, as well as the use of diagnostic imaging read and interpreted by a person so licensed and clinical laboratory procedures to determine the propriety of a regimen of chiropractic care; adjunctive therapies approved by the Board, by rule, to be used in conjunction with chiropractic treatment; and treatment by adjustment or manipulation of the spine or other joints and connected neuromusculoskeletal tissues and bodily articulations.

Virginia

Chapter 29 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia

Medicine

54.1-2900. Definitions.

"Practice of chiropractic" means the adjustment of the 24 movable vertebrae of the spinal column, and assisting nature for the purpose of normalizing the transmission of nerve energy, but does not include the use of surgery, obstetrics, osteopathy or the administration or prescribing of any drugs, medicines, serums or vaccines.

Washington

RCW 18.25.005 “Chiropractic defined”

- (1) Chiropractic is the practice of health care that deals with the diagnosis or analysis and care or treatment of the vertebral subluxation complex and its effects, articular dysfunction, and musculoskeletal disorders, all for the restoration and maintenance of health and recognizing the recuperative powers of the body.
- (4) Chiropractic care shall not include the prescription or dispensing of any medicine or drug, the practice of obstetrics or surgery, the use of x-rays or any other form of radiation for therapeutic purposes, colonic irrigation, or any form of venipuncture.

West Virginia

Scope of Practice

Any WV licensed chiropractor may use any instrument or procedure for the purpose of diagnosis and analysis of disease or abnormalities, provided, that the person is:

1. Trained to perform the procedures and use of the instruments through a chiropractic college approved by the Council on Chiropractic Education (CCE) or its successor, or
2. Any chiropractor properly qualified may engage in the use of physiotherapeutic devices, physiotherapeutic modalities, physical therapy and physical therapy techniques.

Licensed chiropractors may also employ properly trained chiropractic assistants to perform duties, under supervision, that are generally conducted by chiropractic assistants which are not otherwise prohibited by the Board.

A licensed chiropractor may not engage in conduct outside this scope and beyond his or her training and knowledge.

Wisconsin

446.01 Definitions.

(2) “Practice of chiropractic” means:

(a) To examine into the fact, condition, or cause of departure from complete health and proper condition of the human; to treat without the use of drugs as defined in s. 450.01 (10) or surgery; to counsel; to advise for the same for the restoration and preservation of health or to undertake, offer, advertise, announce or hold out in any manner to do any of the aforementioned acts, for compensation, direct or indirect or in expectation thereof;

Wyoming

33-10-101. Chiropractic defined.

Chiropractic is the system of specific adjustment or manipulation of the joints and tissues of the body and the treatment of the human body by the application of manipulative, manual, mechanical, physiotherapeutic or clinical nutritional methods for which those persons licensed under this chapter are trained and may include venipuncture, acupuncture and the use of diagnostic x-rays with rights for referral for advanced diagnostic imaging. A chiropractor may examine, diagnose and treat patients provided, however, chiropractors shall not perform surgery, direct the use of or administer drugs required by law to be dispensed on prescription only, practice obstetrics or prescribe or administer x-ray therapy. For purposes of this act, "venipuncture" means the puncture of the vein for the withdrawal of blood.

Puerto Rico

Law 493- May of 1952

Chiropractic is the science of the treatment of the human body by means of adjustments and manipulation done to remove subluxations and partial dislocations of the vertebral column that make pressure on the nerves, affecting the transmission of vital energy to the brain, organs, tissues and cells of the human body.

The law of chiropractic states that a chiropractor can sign certificates and documents that are from an exam and analysis of the body by the mentioned means or to the treatment of the body by the adjustment and manipulation done to remove subluxations and partial dislocations of the vertebral column, not authorized to diagnose and sign any document of diseases as mental problems, epilepsy, mental retardation, syphilis or any venereal disease.

A licensed chiropractor is authorized to:

- a. Examine and analyze the human body by using physical methods, chemical, electrical, thermic or radionics methods (x-rays)
- b. Treat the human body by using manual, mechanic, electric or natural methods or by using physiotherapy (including light, heat, cold, water and exercise) or by means of nutrition and vitamins.
- c. Administer first aid and hygiene methods.

A chiropractor with license in PR cannot:

- a. Prescribe or administer medicine or drug
- b. Practice surgery
- c. Practice obstetrics

US Virgin Islands

TITLE TWENTY-SEVEN Professions and Occupations Chapter 1. Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and Nurse-Midwifery Subchapter X. Chiropractic

167k. Limitations of practice

(a) A license to practice chiropractic shall not permit the holder thereof to treat for any infectious or communicable diseases, any of the cardio-vascular-renal or cardio-pulmonary diseases, any surgical condition of the abdomen such as acute appendicitis, or any benign or malignant neoplasms; to perform surgical operations; to reduce fractures; to reduce dislocations except in an emergency; to prescribe, administer, dispense or use in his practice drugs or medicines; or to use diagnostic or therapeutic methods involving prescription pharmaceuticals; or to sign death certificates; or to advise a patient against the use of a drug prescribed by a licensed physician or dentist.

CANADA

Alberta

Health Professions Act

Practice

3 In their practice, chiropractors do one or more of the following:

- (a) examine, diagnose and treat, through chiropractic adjustment and other natural means, to maintain and promote health and wellness,
- (a.1) teach, manage and conduct research in the science, techniques and practice of chiropractic, and
- (b) provide restricted activities authorized by the regulations.

RSA 2000 cH-7 Sched. 2 s3;2008 c34 s20

Alberta College and Association of Chiropractors - What is chiropractic?

A chiropractor does not prescribe drugs or perform surgery, but may make a referral to medical specialists for such treatment when appropriate.

British Columbia

COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTORS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT HANDBOOK

9.1 The scope of practice will include:

1. All activities outlined in the Health Professions Act, Chiropractors Regulation for the purposes of promotion, maintenance and restoration of health the services of:
 - a) Assessment of the spine or other joints of the body and the associated tissue, and the nervous system,
 - b) Treatment of nervous system, muscular and skeletal diseases, disorders and conditions through manipulation or adjustment of the spine or other joints of the body by hand or by using devices directly related to the manipulation or adjustment, and
 - c) Advice and counseling on matters related to the condition of the spine or other joints of the body and the associated tissue, the nervous system and the overall health of the individual.

B.C. Reg. 414/2008 Health Professions Act Chiropractors Regulation

"chiropractic" means the health profession in which a person provides, for the purposes of promotion, maintenance and restoration of health, the services of

- (a) assessment of the spine or other joints of the body and the associated tissue, and the nervous system,
- (b) treatment of nervous system, muscular and skeletal diseases, disorders and conditions through manipulation or adjustment of the spine or other joints of the body by hand or by using devices directly related to the manipulation or adjustment, and
- (c) advice and counseling on matters related to the condition of the spine or other joints of the body and the associated tissue, the nervous system and the overall health of the individual;

Manitoba

The Chiropractic Act

PART I INTERPRETATION Definitions

"practice of chiropractic" means

- (a) any professional service usually performed by a chiropractor, including the examination and treatment, principally by hand and without use of drugs or surgery, of the spinal column, pelvis and extremities and associated soft tissues; and
- (b) such other services as may be approved by the regulations;

New Brunswick

CHAPTER 69

An Act to Incorporate the New Brunswick Chiropractors Association

"practice of chiropractic" means primary care professional service performed by a chiropractor for the diagnosis, including diagnostic imaging, and for the examination and treatment, principally by hand, and without the use of drugs or surgery, of the spinal column, pelvis, extremities and associated tissues;

Newfoundland and Labrador

CONSOLIDATED NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR REGULATION 1101/96

Chiropractors Regulations under the Chiropractors Act (O.C. 96-941)

Definitions

2. In this Act

- (a) "board" means the Newfoundland and Labrador Chiropractic Board continued under section 4;
- (b) "chiropractic" means a professional service usually performed by a chiropractor directed towards the diagnosis, examination and treatment, principally by hand, and without use of drugs or surgery, of the spinal column, pelvis, extremities and associated tissues;

Nova Scotia

Chiropractic Act

CHAPTER 4 OF THE ACTS OF 1999 (2nd Session) *as amended by*
2008, c. 3, s. 2; 2012, c. 48, s. 28

Interpretation

2 In this Act,

(a) “Association” means the Nova Scotia Chiropractic Association established pursuant to the former Act;

(b) “Board” means the Board of the College;

(c) “chiropractic” means professional services usually performed by or under the supervision of a chiropractor and includes

(i) diagnosis, examination and treatment of persons principally by hand and without the use of drugs or surgery of the spinal column, pelvis, extremities and associated tissues, and

(ii) such services as approved by the regulations;

Ontario

STANDARD OF PRACTICE S-001

Chiropractic Scope of Practice

The practice of chiropractic is the assessment of conditions related to the spine, nervous system and joints and the diagnosis, prevention and treatment, primarily by adjustment, of,

(a) dysfunctions or disorders arising from the structures or functions of the spine and the effects of those dysfunctions or disorders on the nervous system; and

(b) dysfunctions or disorders arising from the structures or functions of the joints.

Responding to General Health-Related Questions

Offences

In responding to general health-related questions by patients that relate to controlled acts outside the chiropractic scope of practice (such as prescribing a drug as defined in the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act, 1990*, performing surgery and administering vaccinations), a member shall:

Prince Edward Island

CHAPTER C-7.1 CHIROPRACTIC ACT

INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

1. In this Act

(j) “practice of chiropractic” means the provision of any professional service usually performed by a chiropractor, and includes the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of biomechanical disorders of the neuromusculoskeletal system by methods that include the use of

(i) imaging, laboratory and clinical diagnostic procedures,

(ii) joint manipulation or other manual therapies, and

(iii) exercise and patient education;

(2) Nothing in this Act authorizes any person to

(a) prescribe or administer drugs for internal or external use by any person;

(b) direct or prescribe the use of anaesthetic for any purpose whatsoever; or

(c) practise medicine, surgery or midwifery or to use any method other than chiropractic in providing services to clients.

2003,c.32,s.2.

Quebec

Office of the Professions of Quebec (website)

Chiropractic is a health care discipline that relies on the body’s inherent ability to keep itself healthy and heal itself without drugs or surgery (homeostasis). Chiropractic interventions focus on the relationship between structure (primarily the spine) and function, as coordinated by the nervous system.

Regulations available in French.

Saskatchewan

The Chiropractic Act, 1994

Interpretation 2 In this Act:

(e) “chiropractic” means:

- (i) the science and art of treatment, by methods of adjustment, by hand, of one or more of the several articulations of the human body;
- (ii) diagnosis, including all diagnostic methods, and spinal analysis; and
- (iii) the provision of direction and advice, written or otherwise; in relation to any ailment, disease, defect or disability of the spinal column or any other part of the human body, where the treatment, diagnosis or provision of direction or advice is taught in a College of Chiropractic accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education (Canada);

Limitation on practice

25(1) Nothing in this Act or the bylaws authorizes any member to:

- (a) prescribe or administer prescription drugs;
- (b) practise medicine, surgery or midwifery;
- (c) use any method other than chiropractic in the treatment of disease.

United Kingdom

General Chiropractic Council

Code of Practice and Standard of Proficiency

Chiropractic is ‘A health profession concerned with the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mechanical disorders of the musculoskeletal system, and the effects of these disorders on the functions of the nervous system and general health. There is an emphasis on manual treatments including spinal adjustment and other joint and soft-tissue manipulation.’

WFC Dictionary Definition,

World Federation of Chiropractic, 2001.

Chiropractors are concerned with the framework of bones and muscles that support the body (the musculoskeletal system). By helping the musculoskeletal system to work properly, chiropractors can play a major part in relieving disorders, and the pain and discomfort that go with them. These can be the result of accidents, stress, lack of exercise, poor posture, illness and everyday wear and tear.

Chiropractors take a ‘holistic’ approach to health and wellbeing. This means that they consider every patient’s symptoms in the context of their full medical history, their lifestyle and their personal circumstances before deciding what care and advice should be provided.

The Code of Practice and the Standard of Proficiency

Chiropractic is an independent primary healthcare profession. The law does not define the scope of practice for any healthcare profession. Nor is it the purpose of this document to define the scope of chiropractic. Achieving the requirements set out in the Code of Practice and the Standard of Proficiency will deliver a standard of chiropractic care that will promote patient health and wellbeing, and protect patients from harm. These requirements are laid out in the left-hand column in the following pages.

New Zealand

Pursuant to section 11 (1) of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003, the Board specifies one Scope of Practice as follows:

Scope of Practice

Chiropractic is a primary healthcare profession concerned with the relationship between structure (primarily of the spine) and function (primarily of the nervous system) as that relationship may affect the restoration, preservation and promotion of health and well-being. Chiropractic principles recognise the inherent recuperative power of the body.

Essential to the practice of Chiropractic are:

the assessment of conditions related to the spine, non-spinal articulations and the neuro-musculoskeletal system.
the diagnosis, prevention, rehabilitation, management of and education about those conditions.

Primary contact objectives mandate an appropriate level of competence in the disciplines of: anatomy, physiology, orthopaedics, neurology, rheumatology, pathology and clinical practice in order to:

recognise conditions requiring referral to other health care practitioners and make such referrals as appropriate. (Such referral does not obviate the responsibility of the chiropractor for providing appropriate chiropractic care.);

recognise contraindications to chiropractic care;

recognise the need to modify chiropractic techniques as required;

recognise the need for concomitant care;

Recognise and respect the cultural values of individuals and families.

Australia

Chiropractic Board of Australia

Code of Conduct

About the National Boards and AHPRA

The 14 National Boards regulating registered health practitioners in Australia are responsible for registering practitioners and students (except for in psychology, which has provisional psychologists), setting the standards that practitioners must meet, and managing notifications (complaints) about the health, conduct or performance of practitioners.

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) works in partnership with the National Boards to implement the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The core role of the National Boards and AHPRA is to protect the public.

This code has been developed by the Chiropractic Board of Australia under section 39 of the National Law.

Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a chiropractor in their regulated health profession. For the purposes of this code, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes using professional knowledge in a direct non-clinical relationship with patients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that have an impact on safe, effective delivery of health services in the chiropractic profession. Providing care includes, but is not limited to, any treatment/care, advice, service or goods provided in respect of the physical or mental health of a person, whether remunerated or not.

Appendix H

Oregon and Chiropractic

The current Oregon law regarding the practice of Chiropractic is as follows:

Oregon

684.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(2) “Chiropractic” is defined as:

(a) That system of adjusting with the hands the articulations of the bony framework of the human body, and the employment and practice of physiotherapy, electrotherapy, hydrotherapy and minor surgery.

(4) “Drugs” means all medicines and preparations and all substances, except over-the-counter nonprescription substances, food, water and nutritional supplements taken orally, used or intended to be used for the diagnosis, cure, treatment, mitigation or prevention of diseases or abnormalities of humans, which are recognized in the latest editions of the official United States Pharmacopoeia, official Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia, official National Formulary, or any supplement to any of them, or otherwise established as drugs.

(5) “Minor surgery” means the use of electrical or other methods for the surgical repair and care incident thereto of superficial lacerations and abrasions, benign superficial lesions, and the removal of foreign bodies located in the superficial structures; and the use of antiseptics and local anesthetics in connection therewith.

684.015 Prohibited practices.

(3) No person practicing under this chapter shall administer or write prescriptions for, or dispense drugs, practice optometry or naturopathic medicine or do major surgery.

The Oregon Practice Act of 1915 appears to have influenced the current law for that state. The 3rd line required 40 hours of minor surgery.

1915 Oregon Practice Act Section 6, (c)

(c) The schedule of minimum educational requirements to enable any person to practice chiropractic in the State of Oregon shall be as follows, to wit: Group 1, 120 hours—chemistry, 120 hours. Group 2, 645 hours—anatomy, 510 hours, and histology, 135 hours. Group 3, 340 hours—toxicology, 40 hours; minor surgery, 40 hours, and physiology, 260 hours. Group 4, 395 hours—hygiene and sanitation, 125 hours; pathology, 270 hours. Group 5, 340 hours—diagnosis, 340 hours. Group 6, 260 hours—chiropractic theory and practice, 260 hours. Group 7, 300 hours—gynecology, 105 hours, and obstetrics, 195 hours, making a total of 2,400 hours.

From the 1915 Act Chiropractic defined Section 8, (b) http://history.uws.edu/chapter_1/part-5-oscar-elliott/

(b) Chiropractic is defined as that system of adjusting the articulations of the bony framework of the human body, especially asymmetries of the vertebrae, for the purpose of removing the cause of disease by the correction of subluxations, thereby removing the pressure, impingement, or tension from the nerves having their passage between, through, or around the structures subluxated. The subluxation is corrected with the hands, using the bones of the body, more particularly the spinous and transverse processes of the vertebrae, as levers to which is applied a peculiar adjustic movement—the chiropractic thrust.

It is interesting to note that the Chiropractic definition is silent regarding minor surgery.

The Portland College D. D. started indicates surgery in the 2nd term curriculum.

D. D. Palmer opened the D. D. Palmer College of Chiropractic on November 08, 1908, in Portland, Oregon. The curriculum for the two terms (5 months each) is as follows:

“First Term

Anatomy, Osteology, Chiropractic Physiology, Osteological Anomalies, Chiropractic Symptomatology, Psychology, Philosophy & Science of Chiropractic

Second Term

Advanced Anatomy, Art of Chiropractic Application, Plastic & Orthopedic Surgery, Junior Palpation & Nerve Tracing, Psychology with Practical Demonstration, Analysis from Palpation & Nerve Tracing, Senior Palpation & Adjusting in Open Clinic”

(The Complete History of Western States, “Chapter 1, part 2 – D.D. Palmer”

By Lester Lamm, D.C. http://history.uws.edu/chapter_1/part-2-dd-palmer/)

The article written by Dr. Keating in 2002 again indicates that minor surgery was taught in D. D.’s Portland school.

“Palmer’s school magazine described a course of instruction rarely seen in those early days:

‘If you are going to study Chiropractic, why not matriculate at the school that is presided over by the man – the mastermind – who discovered and developed the greatest science known to humanity? Why not learn Chiropractic first-handed, direct from the fountainhead? The D.D. Palmer College of Chiropractic offers you this opportunity. Students at this school receive instructions under the direct supervision of Dr. D.D. Palmer, the man who found the cause of disease and developed a unique method of adjustment for correcting the same. The course at this school covers a period of two years, nine months to the year. The first year is devoted to Chiropractic and all that pertains to it, including a short course in dissection on the cadaver. The second year, minor surgery, obstetrics, forensic jurisprudence and a full course of dissection. Tuition, per year.....\$250.00” (Joseph C Keating, Jr., PhD, “Early chiropractic education in Oregon”, Journal Canadian Chiropractic Association, 2002; 46(1), p. 46.)

What might obviously be perceived as “surgery” being an incisive procedure, the “surgery” term more than likely was co-opted to describe a conservative approach.

“Palmer’s use of the term conservative surgery seems to contradict the ‘no knives’ philosophy the Palmers are known for. However Palmer’s use of the word surgery does not necessarily endorse the use of knives on patients. What it could imply is the bone setting adjustment of tissues displacements and fractures by hand. This he called conservative surgery, to conserve parts, not remove them. . . The curriculum of the first year in the D.D. Palmer College was strictly devoted to all that pertained to Chiropractic, and a brief study of cadaver dissection. Surgery was not taught in the first year and was not part of Palmer’s philosophy. Minor surgery was taught in the second year along with obstetrics, forensics and full course of dissection.” [Waters, Todd (ed.). 2013. Chasing D.D.: D.D. Palmer in the News, self-published.]

D. D. Palmer may have been prescient to explain what he meant regarding “surgery” in his 1910 tome.

“Surgery relates to injuries of any part or organs, and the adjusting of these, be they fractures or displacements. The Chiropractor should look well to conservative surgery – the preservation of a part rather than its removal. In the education of Chiropractors, dissection has been neglected.”

(The Science, Art and Philosophy of Chiropractic, by D.D. Palmer, Portland Printing House Company, Portland, Oregon, 1910, p. 789.)

The Oregon history developing the practice of Chiropractic in that state shows that minor surgery has been permitted since 1915. Any connection with the use of an incisive procedure and the Founder of Chiropractic – D. D. Palmer for his profession is doubtful, especially based upon his own words.

It is important to note that no other state or licensing jurisdiction has ever interpreted the practice of Chiropractic to include surgery; hence there are no current laws outside of Oregon that includes the practice of surgery. For 100 years, Oregon has been the lone exception.

The Articles of Incorporation of Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards (FCLB) WY ID # 1980-000098425, which were approved in 2008 by the FCLB Board of Directors and the FCLB Member Boards, states in item 4 that:

The corporation is organized to operate exclusively within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) for charitable and educational purposes and for the purpose of lessening burdens on government, and, more specifically: to provide programs and services that assist member chiropractic licensing boards fulfill their statutory obligations to regulate the profession in the interest of public protection. These programs and services shall include, but not be limited to, those that promote uniform standards among licensing boards, examination and testing services, and educational programs teaching chiropractic (including those leading to the Doctor of Chiropractic degree, postgraduate chiropractic education, diplomate and certification programs, and continuing education for relicensure purposes.)

The presentation of this paper affirms that Chiropractic is vastly normative and ubiquitous as drug-free, non-surgical practice. This uniform standard among the licensing boards / regulatory agencies is evidenced by the compiled research of each of the FCLB member boards as submitted in the document entitled “Chiropractic Regulatory Agencies and Laws Regarding Drugs and Surgery 2015” found in Appendix G.