

DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP IN CHIROPRACTIC INFORMED CONSENT

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

A chiropractor conducts a clinical analysis for the express purpose of determining whether there is evidence of Vertebral Subluxation Syndrome (VSS) or Vertebral Subluxation Complexes (VSC). When such VSS and VSC complexes are found, chiropractic adjustments and ancillary procedures may be given in an attempt to restore spinal integrity. It is the chiropractic premise that spinal alignment allows nerve transmission throughout the body and gives the body an opportunity to use its natural recuperative powers. Due to the complexities of nature, no doctor can promise you specific results. This depends upon the inherent recuperative powers of the body.

DIAGNOSIS – Although chiropractors are experts in chiropractic diagnosis, VSS and VSC, they are not internal medical specialists. Every chiropractic patient should be mindful of his/her own symptoms and should secure other opinions if he/she has any concern as to the nature of his/her total condition. Your chiropractor may express an opinion as to whether or not you should take this step, but you are responsible for the final decision.

INFORMED CONSENT FOR CHIROPRACTIC CARE – A patient, in coming to the chiropractor, gives the doctor permission and authority to care for the patient in accordance with the chiropractic tests, diagnosis and analysis. The chiropractic adjustment or other clinical procedures are usually beneficial and seldom cause any problem. In rare cases, underlying physical defects, deformities or pathologies may render the patient susceptible to injury. The doctor will not give a chiropractic adjustment, or healthcare, if he/she is aware that such a care may be contraindicated. Again, it is the responsibility of the patient to make it known or to learn through health care procedures whatever he/she is suffering from: latent pathological defects, illnesses, or deformities which would otherwise not come to the attention of the chiropractor. The patient should look to the correct specialist for the proper diagnostic and clinical procedures. The chiropractor provides the specialized, non-duplicating health service. The chiropractor is licensed in a special practice and is available to work with other types of providers in your health care regime.

RESULTS – The purpose of chiropractic services is to promote natural health through the reduction of VSS and VSC. Since there are so many variables, it is difficult to predict the time, schedule or efficiency of the chiropractic procedures. Sometimes the response is phenomenal.

In most cases there is a gradual, but quite satisfactory response. Occasionally, the results are less than expected. Two or more similar conditions may respond differently to the same chiropractic care. Many medical failures find quick relief through chiropractic. In turn, we must admit that conditions which do not respond to chiropractic care may come under control or be helped through medical science. The fact is that the science of chiropractic and medicine may never be so exact as to provide definite answers to all problems. Both have made great strides in alleviating pain and controlling disease.

TO THE PATIENT – Please discuss any questions or problems with the doctor **before** signing this statement of policy.

I have read, and understand the foregoing.

SIGNATURE

DATE