

## *Informed Consent to Chiropractic Treatment*

Chiropractic, as well as other types of health care, is associated with potential risks in the delivery of treatment. Therefore, it is necessary to inform the patient of such risks prior to initiating care. While chiropractic treatment is remarkably safe, you need to be informed about the potential risks related to your care to allow you to be fully informed in consenting to treatment.

Chiropractic office may use trained staff/personnel to assist with portions of your consultation, examination, x-rays, physiotherapy application, exercise instruction, etc. Occasionally, when your chiropractor is unavailable, another qualified Doctor of Chiropractic may treat you.

### **Specific risk possibilities associated with chiropractic care:**

Stroke: Stroke is the most serious complication of chiropractic treatment. It is, on very rare occasion, due to injury of the vertebral artery caused by a cervical spine adjustment or manipulation, and when occurs, may cause temporary or permanent brain dysfunction. On extremely rare occasions death occurs. Because the vertebral arteries, which supply the brain with blood, are located within the bones of the cervical spine, cervical treatment poses a small risk. The chances of this occurring are estimated at 1 per 400,000 treatments to 1 per 10 million treatments. The most recent studies (Journal of CCA, Vol.37, No.2, June, 1993) estimate that the incidence of this type of stroke is 1 in every 3 million upper cervical adjustments. Studies of these incidences have shown that almost all of these problems have resulted from manipulations performed by NON-CHIROPRACTIC practitioners.

Soreness: Chiropractic adjustments and physical therapy procedures are sometimes accompanied by post treatment soreness. This is a normal and acceptable accompanying response to chiropractic care. While it is not generally dangerous, please advise your Doctor of Chiropractic if you experience soreness or discomfort.

Soft Tissue Injury: Occasionally chiropractic treatment may aggravate a disc injury or cause other minor joint, ligament, tendon, or other soft tissue injury.

Rib/bone Injury: Manual adjustments to the thoracic spine, in rare cases, may cause rib or other bone injury or fracture. Treatment is performed carefully to minimize such risk.

Other Problems: There are occasionally other types of side effects associated with chiropractic care. While these are very rare, they include joint dislocation, nerve, or spinal cord injury.

### **Other Treatment Options Which Could Be Considered May Include the Following:**

- *Over-the-counter analgesics.* The risks of these medications include irritation to the stomach, liver, and kidneys, and other side effects in a significant number of cases.
- *Medical care,* typically antiinflammatory drugs, tranquilizers, and analgesics. Risks of these drugs include a multitude of undesirable side effects and patient dependence in a significant number of cases.
- *Hospitalization* in conjunction with medical care adds risk of exposure to virulent communicable disease in a significant number of cases.
- *Surgery* in conjunction with medical care adds the risks of adverse reaction to anesthesia, as well as an extended convalescent period in significant number of cases.

Chiropractic is a system of health care delivery and, therefore, as with any health care delivery system, we cannot promise a cure for any symptom, condition, or disease as a result of treatment in this office. An attempt to provide the very best care we can is our goal, and if the results are not acceptable, we will refer you to another health care professional who we feel will assist your situation.

If you have any questions concerning the above, please ask your Doctor of Chiropractic. When you have full understanding and consent to have chiropractic care provided, please print your name and sign and date below.

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Patient Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient's Signature

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Parent of Guardian Signature for Minor