

# DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP AND INFORMED CONSENT

## CHIROPRACTIC

It is important to acknowledge the difference between the health care specialties of Chiropractic, Osteopathy, and Medicine, and for the patient to understand what to expect from chiropractic care. It is the chiropractic premise that proper spinal alignment allows normal nerve transmission throughout the body and gives the body an opportunity to use its inherent recuperative powers. In this way, chiropractic health care seeks to restore health through natural means without the use of drugs or surgery. This gives the body maximum opportunity to utilize its inherent recuperative powers. The success of chiropractic procedures often depends on environment, underlying causes, and the physical and spinal conditions of each individual patient. It is important that the patient understands what to expect from your chiropractic care. Due to the complexities of nature, and the many variables (both known and unknown) that can affect a patient's response, no doctor can promise specific results. The Doctor of Chiropractic provides a specialized, unique, nonduplicating health service. The Doctor of Chiropractic is licensed in a special area of practice and is available to work with other types of providers in your health care regime.

## ANALYSIS

Your doctor will conduct a clinical analysis for the express purpose of determining whether there is evidence that your situation may be the result of a vertebral subluxation and that you might respond satisfactorily to chiropractic care. If such is found, chiropractic care will be recommended in an attempt to restore spinal integrity.

## RESULTS

The purpose of chiropractic care is to promote natural health through the reduction of the vertebral subluxation. Since there are so many variables, it is difficult to predict the time schedule or the efficacy of the chiropractic adjustment on any given patient. Sometimes the response is phenomenal, however, in most cases, there is a more gradual, but quite satisfactory response. Occasionally, the results are less than expected. Two or more similar conditions may respond differently to the same type of care and actual response is not predictable. Many medical failures have found significant benefit through chiropractic care. In turn, many conditions, which do not respond to chiropractic care, may be helped through medical treatment. Chiropractic and medicine may never be so exact as to provide definite answers to all problems; however, both have made great strides in patient care.

## DIAGNOSIS

Although Doctors of Chiropractic are experts in the analysis of the structural alignment of the human spine, and its effects on the nervous system, they are not internal medical specialists. Every patient should be mindful of his/her own symptoms and should secure other opinions should he/she have any concerns as to the nature of his/her total condition. Your Doctor of Chiropractic 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

By signing below, the patient gives the doctor permission and authority to care for him/her in accordance with recognized and acceptable chiropractic analytical and corrective procedures. The chiropractic adjustment is usually beneficial and seldom causes any adverse reactions. In rare cases, undetected physical defects, deformities, or pathologies may render the patient susceptible to injury. The doctor, of course, will not give an adjustment if he is aware that such care may be contra-indicated. Again, it is the responsibility of the patient to make it known or to learn through other health care procedures whether he/she is suffering from pathological conditions (latent or otherwise), illnesses, injuries, or deformities which would otherwise not come to the attention of the doctor.

**TO THE PATIENT**

Please discuss any questions or problems with the doctor before signing this statement of understanding and consent for care.

I have read and understand the foregoing explanation of chiropractic care given to me. I hereby give my consent for the doctor to render chiropractic care to me.

\_\_\_\_\_

Client Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date