



POSITION STATEMENTS

Changes accepted 08/11

I. GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/REGULATORY

A. **Responsibility under Licensing Laws – Updated 9-20-04 Reviewed 1-29-07**

Doctors of Chiropractic have asked the state for the privilege of professional licensure. The General Assembly has granted that privilege. The Iowa Chiropractic Society and its members have the responsibility to obey all laws and policies of the General Assembly, which we hereby recognize as a condition to the continuation of the professional license.

- B. **Medicaid Reimbursement: (Revised 5-14-2007) The Iowa Chiropractic Society** shall continue the existing policy with regard to reimbursement of providers under the Medicaid program that all providers share equally in increases and reductions of reimbursement.

II. INSURANCE/EMPLOYERS

A. **Exclusion of Chiropractic Services Or Any Programs – Updated 9-20-04 Reviewed 1-29-07**

The Iowa Chiropractic Society strongly opposes the proliferation of self-funded insurance programs or any programs that exclude chiropractic services, and recommends legislative and/or legal action to remedy this situation.

B. **The Potential Elimination of Reimbursement of Chiropractic Care – Approved 9-17-04 Updated 1-29-07**

The efficacy of chiropractic treatment is manifest by positive results as reported by patients of chiropractic and in numerous clinical studies that demonstrate effectiveness in dealing with numerous clinical conditions.

In the case of reductions in or elimination of payments to chiropractic providers, patients may find themselves drawn to physical therapy, osteopathic manipulative treatment, or treatment by orthopedic surgeons, which may simply shift the expenditures for this category to another and, in some cases, may actually result in higher expenditures than would otherwise exist for chiropractic care. More importantly, the quality of care would be reduced. By eliminating patient access to chiropractic services, it is unlikely that dollars would be saved, and more likely that costs would increase and the quality of patient care decline. We urge continued support for chiropractic care to the patients of Iowa.

C. **Insurance Claims Review and IME: (Reviewed 5-14-2007) The Iowa**

Chiropractic Society resists the practice of some third party payors to require an independent medical exam (IME) by an M.D. or D.O. with narrow limits (e.g. 5 office visits – 2 wks.) when the primary physician is a D.C., while not requiring an IME under similar circumstances when the primary physician is an M.D. or D.O.



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If an IME is required on a D.C. patient, it should be done by a D.C. who is state qualified for insurance review.

The Iowa Chiropractic Society also resists the practice of some third party payors of hiring a chiropractor or group of chiropractors to act as “chiropractic consultants” for the sole purpose of reducing benefits paid out to chiropractic patients.

III. LEGAL

Anti-Trust Laws – Reviewed 9-20-04 Reviewed 1-29-07

Free and open competition among all health care practitioners is necessary to maintain the delivery of affordable and comprehensive health care services to all residents of the State of Iowa. The chiropractic profession has long benefited from both state and federal anti-trust laws.

IV. OTHER PROFESSIONS

Position Statement on Health Care Referral – Updated 9-20-04 Updated 1-29-07

Iowa Chiropractic Society members are urged, in the interest of the patient’s welfare, to refer to other members of the healing arts, depending on the specific needs of each patient.

V. PRACTICE OF CHIROPRACTIC

A. Spinal Adjustments in Public – Reviewed 9-20-04 Updated 1-29-07

Doctors of chiropractic should at all times promote public confidence in the chiropractic profession. Spinal adjusting in public, such as at health fairs, shopping malls, or other trade shows not only detracts from that confidence, but also reflects negatively on the profession.

B. Acupuncture in Public – Updated 08-29-09

Doctors of Chiropractic should at all times promote public confidence in the chiropractic profession. Performing acupuncture in public, such as at health fairs, shopping malls, or other trade shows not only detracts from that confidence, but also reflects negatively on the profession.

C. Chapter 151 of the Code of Iowa – Updated 9-20-04 Reviewed 1-29-07

The Iowa Chiropractic Society strongly endorses section 151 of the Code of Iowa as its regulation for practice in the State of Iowa and urges all its members to do the same, especially Section 151.1 which identifies chiropractors as those “persons utilizing differential diagnosis.”



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D. Ancillary Procedures – Updated 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07 Updated 08-29-09

In the interest of the welfare of the citizens of Iowa, and in accordance with the premise that the chiropractor serves patients best when allowed the freedom to practice the profession according to their chiropractic education. The Iowa Chiropractic Society endorses the utilization of all ancillary practice methods taught by approved chiropractic colleges and as specified by the Code of Iowa in 151.1, Subsection 3, and authorized by Section 151.8.

E. Encouragement by Chiropractors for Patients to Return to Work at the Earliest Date Compatible with Health and Safety – Updated 9-20-04

It is in the best interest of both the employer and the worker that sickness absence be kept to a minimum.

The Iowa Chiropractic Society continues to encourage chiropractors to have their patients return to work at the earliest date compatible with health and safety.

F. X-Ray, Patient Safeguards – Updated 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07

The chiropractic profession recognizes the importance of diagnostic x-ray examination. There should always be clinical evidence for the need for diagnostic x-ray examination, which should not be employed strictly as a routine procedure. Proper patient radiological protection including adequate collimation, filtration, and gonadal shielding should be utilized. Proper x-ray protocols should be followed with all pregnant patients.

G Advertising of Discounts and Free Services – Approved 08/20/2011

It is the position of the Iowa Chiropractic Society (ICS) that, because of many payer contractual restrictions, ICS Members should not advertise the provision of free services. The offering of free services, heavily discounted service and the routine waivers of third-party payer deductibles and co-insurance is an unacceptable and possibly illegal method of patient inducement and may be in violation of Medicare/Medicaid regulations and provider contracts. Further, the offering of free services and heavily discounted services may result in reduced contractual payment rates where third-party payer contracts call for reimbursement on the basis of usual and customary fees.

Members should review their own advertising policies and procedures in light of this position. ICS recognizes that in a competitive health care environment, Members often engage in various methods of practice promotion and advertising to establish and maintain a viable practice. ICS does not seek to restrict the rights of its Members to market their practices, but rather strives to ensure Member compliance with Medicare/Medicaid regulations and provider contracts.



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VI. PUBLIC HEALTH

A. **Substance Abuse– Reviewed 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07**

Substance Abuse is established as a disorder manifested by dependence upon and loss of control over the use of drugs and alcohol and characterized by chronicity, intoxication, and tendency toward relapse.

Substance abuse causes physical disability leading to impaired emotional, occupational, spiritual, and social adjustments.

The Iowa Chiropractic Society recognizes substance abuse as an illness that should be so treated, and asserts that the addict is a sick person who can be helped, and that substance abuse is a significant public health problem.

B. **Cooperation with Scientific Community – Reviewed 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07**

In the spirit of scientific investigation, the Iowa Chiropractic Society stands ready to cooperate with the scientific community in the promotion of chiropractic care as a valid health service, which benefits the citizens of the United States and the world.

C. **Dangers of Unqualified Neuromuscular Manipulation – Reviewed 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07**

The Iowa Chiropractic Society informs the public that there are inherent dangers in the misuse of the manipulative adjustment by persons other than those adequately trained and qualified by due educational and examination processes.

The Iowa Chiropractic Society considers the use of manipulative adjustments by persons with less training than that required in the core curriculum of approved chiropractic or osteopathic educational institutions to be a danger to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

D. **Recreational Vehicles – Updated 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07**

The Iowa Chiropractic Society recommends that the public follow both state and federal law when operating recreational vehicles including, but not limited to, motorcycles, ATV's, snowmobiles, jet skis, and boats. The ICS supports the use of safety helmets and equipment, and recommends that recreational vehicles not be marketed to children as toys.

E. **Osteoporosis Policy Statement – Updated 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07**

The Iowa Chiropractic Society recognizes and advises the public that osteoporosis is a silent insidious disease process, primarily of the post-menopausal female, which, if undiagnosed or untreated, may lead to severe crippling and deformity. No cure has yet to be identified which will return normal architectural strength and integrity to the bone.



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The initial diagnosis may often be made by the chiropractic physician in sufficient time to arrest or retard its progress.

Prevention is enhanced by timely and appropriate dietary recommendations, appropriate exercise, dietary supplementation, and medical management.

- F. Promotion of Good Posture Awareness – Reviewed 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07**
The Iowa Chiropractic Society advises and recommends to the public that good posture in all age groups has a direct and significant impact on spinal biomechanics and all bodily functions.
- G. Public Health Education Program – Updated 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07**
The public's health depends in large measure on the public's knowledge of how each person individually can best help to protect and advance his/her own health and best make use of public and other facilities to this end. Effective national health goals must include a program of educating the general public concerning both preventative and remedial health care and concerning the best means to use all available services both public and private.
- H. Tobacco Use – Updated 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07**
The Iowa Chiropractic Society supports the Surgeon General's findings that tobacco use is detrimental to the personal health of those who use tobacco, and the health of others within their environment.
- I. Direct Access to Chiropractic Care – Updated 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07**
Chiropractors are primary care providers in the State of Iowa. Chiropractic care serves as an alternative and complementary health care service which must be directly available to the patient without prescription or a referral by any other health care provider.
- J. Federal Funding of Research, Education and Other Related Programs – Updated 9-20-04 Updated 4-23-07**
Chiropractic should be included in federal funding of research, education, scholarships and fellowships, construction of teaching, library and other facilities, and other related programs available to all health care professions under federal law.
- K. Workers Compensation – Updated 9-20-04 Reviewed 4-23-07**
It is the position of the Iowa Chiropractic Society that the injured worker shall have the choice of physician in treatment of his/her on-the-job injury.
- L. Iowa Mandatory Immunization Law– Approved 6-2-07 Updated 08/29/09**
The Iowa Chiropractic Society encourages parents/guardians to study all sides of this controversial issue and make an informed decision on behalf of their children.