

## **CHIROPRACTIC**

### **Are chiropractors regulated in Washington?**

Yes. Chiropractors must be licensed by the state<sup>1</sup> and are subject to state regulation<sup>2</sup>.

### **What is “chiropractic”?**

“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.<sup>3</sup>

### **What does chiropractic treatment or care include?**

Chiropractic treatment or care includes:

- The use of procedures involving spinal adjustments and extremity manipulation.
- The use of heat, cold, water, exercise, massage, and trigger point therapy.
- Dietary advice and recommendation of nutritional supplementation.
- The normal regimen and rehabilitation of the patient.
- First aid.
- Counseling on hygiene, sanitation, and preventative measures.
- Physiological therapeutic procedures such as traction and light.<sup>4</sup>

Chiropractic care does not include physiological therapeutic procedures involving application of sound, diathermy, or electricity;<sup>5</sup> 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; and any form of venipuncture.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> RCW 18.25.011.

<sup>2</sup> See Chapter 246-808 WAC; RCW 18.25.003; RCW 18.120; See also RCW 18.25.080 (public health regulations).

<sup>3</sup> RCW 18.25.005(1).

<sup>4</sup> RCW 18.25.005(2).

<sup>5</sup> RCW 18.25.005(2).

<sup>6</sup> RCW 18.25.005(4).

**May a physician perform a chiropractic spinal adjustment?**

No. A physician who is not also a licensed chiropractor is prohibited by law from performing an adjustment by hand of any articulation of the spine.<sup>7</sup> To do so constitutes the unauthorized practice of chiropractic and could subject a physician to disciplinary action and even criminal charges.<sup>8</sup> See **UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**; and **UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF MEDICINE**.

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<sup>7</sup> RCW 18.25.005(5); RCW 18.71.011(4).

<sup>8</sup> See RCW 18.130.180.