



New York Chiropractic Council Resolution Supporting the Chiropractor's Right to Clinical Decision-Making Regarding Radiology

Whereas, the New York Chiropractic Council (the Council) is a professional organization whose mission is, direct people to the realization that healing comes from within; and that ultimately the promotion of health and wellness is superior to the treatment of disease.

Whereas, the Council works to protect the right of individual chiropractors to choose the clinical procedures within the chiropractic standard of care and practice, that he or she believes best address the patient's complaint and/or diagnosis; and,

Whereas, the "A license to practice as a chiropractor shall.. permit the holder thereof to use.. X-ray which shall be used for the detection of structural imbalance, distortion, or subluxations in the human body." is included in the definition of the practice of chiropractic in the NYS Chiropractic regulations define chiropractic §6551. Definition of practice of chiropractic 2 a.; and,

Whereas, radiology is a scientifically proven component of the chiropractor's clinical practice, as the role of diagnostic radiology is clinically useful in evaluating multiple aspects of human spinal anatomy, biomechanics, postural faults, misalignments, vertebral subluxation complex, and other pathologies; and,

Whereas, the Council recognizes the need for scientific evidence to support chiropractic care provided bychiropractors across the state and the nation, and that the utilization of rational, evidence-based clinical guidelines and "best practice" documents are critical ways to implement research findings into clinical practice; and,

Whereas, the Council also recognizes that clinical practice guidelines have the potential to streamline health care delivery, improve patient outcomes, and increase safety by using best available scientific evidence and broad consensus to develop appropriate care parameters; and,

Whereas, the Council further recognizes that clinical practice guidelines do not, cannot, and should not represent a "set-in-stone" prescription of care, as they do not take into account such critical factors as the judgment of the chiropractor and the individual circumstances and values of the patient; and,

Whereas, the Council is aware of recent publications from the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Foundation, as part of the ABIM Foundation's Choosing Wisely® campaign, regarding the appropriateness of radiological spinal imaging for patients with low-back pain during the six weeks after onset in the absence of red flags; and,

Whereas, the Council Board fundamentally rejects the statement in this document that states: "Do not obtain spinal imaging for patients with acute low-back pain during the six (6) weeks after onset in the absence of red flags."; and,

Whereas, the Council recognizes that entities such as insurance companies and insurance claims reviewers are using this publication to deny the use of radiographic studies to patients and deny reimbursement for such studies to chiropractors; and,

Whereas, the Council Board, while stipulating that no guideline can replace the clinical decisions made by a chiropractor in the course of treating an individual patient, promotes and supports the evidence-based science for appropriate radiologic evaluations of patients seeking chiropractic care developed by the Practicing Chiropractor's Committee on Radiology Protocols(PCCRP); and,

Whereas, the , Council Board has not been made aware of any subsequent evidence-based radiological guidelines or protocols that would supersede or render obsolete the PCCRP's Guidelines,including the Choosing Wisely® document from the ABIM Foundation; Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council, that we re-affirm our Resolution to promote and support the PCCRP's Guidelines.

Now, therefore, be it further resolved by the Council Board, that all New York doctors of chiropractic who utilize radiologic evaluations in their practice, familiarize themselves with the PCCRP Xray Guidelines, which can be accessed online at www.pccrp.org.

Approved unanimously by formal Board vote on January 24th, 2018