

The Chiropractic Paradigm

The Association of Chiropractic Colleges (ACC)²⁴ agreed to the following chiropractic paradigm that has subsequently been adopted by the World Federation of Chiropractic:

The purpose of chiropractic is to optimize the patient's health. This is based on the principle that the body's innate recuperative power is affected by and integrated through the nervous system. The practice of chiropractic within the chiropractic paradigm includes:

- establishing a diagnosis;
- facilitating the body's homeostasis through emphasis on neurological and biomechanical integrity, and
- promoting health.

The Chiropractic Foundation

The foundation of chiropractic includes philosophy, science, art, knowledge, and clinical experience. The chiropractic paradigm directly influences the following:

- patient health through quality care;
- education;
- research;
- health care policy and leadership;
- relationships with other health care providers;
- professional stature; public awareness and perceptions

The Subluxation

Chiropractic is concerned with the preservation and restoration of health, and focuses particular attention on subluxation. A subluxation is a complex of functional and/or structural and/or pathological articular changes that compromise neural integrity and may influence organ system function and general health. A subluxation is evaluated, diagnosed, and managed through the use of chiropractic procedures based on the best available rational and empirical evidence.

Chiropractic Scope of Practice

Members of the Association of Chiropractic Colleges educate students for the competent practice of chiropractic. These accredited academic institutions have defined the scope of chiropractic practice within the chiropractic paradigm.

Since human function is neurologically integrated Doctors of Chiropractic evaluate and facilitate biomechanical and neuro-biological functions and integrity through the use of appropriate conservative, and diagnostic and chiropractic care procedures. Therefore, direct access to chiropractic care is integral to everyone's health care regimen.

Chiropractic Practice

A. Diagnosis

Doctors of Chiropractic, as primary contact health care providers, employ the education, knowledge, diagnostic skill and clinical judgment necessary to determine appropriate chiropractic care and case management. Doctors of Chiropractic have access to diagnostic procedures and/or referral resources as required.

B. Case Management

Doctors of chiropractic establish a doctor/patient relationship and utilize adjustive and other clinical procedures unique to the chiropractic discipline. Doctors of Chiropractic may also use other conservative patient care procedures, and when appropriate, collaborate with and/ or refer to other health care providers.

C. Health Promotion

Doctors of Chiropractic advise and educate patients and communities in structural and spinal hygiene and healthful living practices²⁴.