CONSENT TO CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT

Chiropractic is a health care profession that focuses on disorders of the musculoskeletal system and the nervous system, and the effects of these disorders on general health. The primary treatment provided by Doctors of Chiropractic is spinal manipulative therapy, also referred to as an adjustment. A Doctor of Chiropractic uses his/her hands and/or a mechanical instrument on the patient's body in such a way as to move the patient's joints. This may cause an audible "pop" or "click", such as when a person "cracks" his knuckles. The patient may feel a sense of movement as well.

Other procedures commonly used by Doctors of Chiropractic include the following:

- physical examination
- ultrasound therapy
- laser therapy
- palpation
- postural analysis
- hot/cold therapy
- traction/decompression
- rehabilitation
- vital signs
- diagnostic studies
- electrical muscle stimulation
- bracing and support applications
- manual therapy
- acupuncture/dry needling

The material risks associated with chiropractic treatment

Chiropractic treatment utilizes very safe, non-invasive procedures performed in chiropractic offices to reduce pain, restore range of motion, and promote overall body wellness, among other various benefits. As with any healthcare procedure, there are certain complications which may arise during chiropractic manipulation and therapy. Possible complications include but are not limited to the following: muscle strain, dizziness, nausea, flushing, fractures, disc injuries, dislocations, cervical myelopathy, burns, costovertebral strains and separations. It is not uncommon for patients to experience temporary soreness after the first few treatments. In rare cases, manipulation of the neck has been associated with injuries to the arteries in the neck, leading to or contributing to serious complications, including stroke.

The probability of those risks occurring

Fractures are rare occurrences and generally result from underlying weakness of the bone for which the Doctor of Chiropractic checks during the taking of the patient's history, and during examination and X-ray. The incidences of stroke are exceedingly rare and are estimated to occur between one in one million and one in five million cervical adjustments. The other complications are also generally described as rare.

The availability and nature of other treatment options may include the following

- Self-administered, over-the-counter analgesics and rest
- Medical care and prescription drugs such as anti-inflammatories, muscle relaxants, and pain-killers
- Hospitalization/Surgery

There are risks and benefits associated with all the above treatment options, which the patient may wish to discuss with his/her medical doctor.

Remaining untreated may allow the formation of adhesions and reduce mobility, which may set up a pain reaction further reducing mobility. Failure to seek care could result in serious medical conditions going unrecognized. Over time, this process may complicate treatment, making it more difficult and less effective the longer it is postponed.

I understand and accept that:

1. I have the right to withdraw from or discontinue treatment at any time and that Dr. _____ will advise me of any material risks in this regard.
2. Neither the practice of chiropractic nor the practice of medicine is an exact science, and my care may involve the making of judgments based upon the facts known to the doctor during the course of my care.
3. It is not reasonable to expect the doctor to be able to anticipate or explain all risks and complications, and an undesirable result does not necessarily indicate an error in judgment or treatment.
4. Dr. _____ does not guarantee any results with respect to any course of care or treatment.

DO NOT SIGN UNTIL YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE. ONCE READ AND UNDERSTOOD, PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BLOCK IN THE PARAGRAPH BELOW AND SIGN.

Patient:

I [ ] have read, or [ ] have had read to me, the above explanation of chiropractic adjustment and related treatment. I hereby authorize~~,~~ Dr. _____ and his/her assistants, associates and other appropriate persons to render care, to perform an examination and to provide an appropriate evaluation and treatment plan to address the complaints, problems, and medical history I have provided. I have discussed any questions, comments, or concerns with Dr. _____ and have had my inquiries answered to my satisfaction. By signing below, I state that I have weighed the risks and/or benefits in undergoing treatment and have decided that it is in my best interest to undergo the treatment recommended. Having been informed of the risks, I hereby give my consent to that treatment.

_____ Patient's Name

_____ Patient's Signature

_____ Date

_____ Signature of Parent/Guardian (if patient is a minor)