

Chiropractors Are Essential Health Care Providers

As portal-of-entry healthcare providers, doctors of chiropractic are educated and licensed to diagnose and care for patients. Doctors of chiropractic work in private practices, multi-disciplinary clinics and hospitals. They are trained to refer patients to other health care providers when necessary.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, chiropractors are a valuable resource in caring for segments of the population who may otherwise revert to emergency rooms. They provide essential care including managing acute and urgent spinal, neuro, musculoskeletal and other conditions. These essential chiropractic interventions are critical toward the management of the ongoing opioid crisis and in assisting in keeping emergency room resources free to manage the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Chiropractors routinely manage and provide essential procedures that promote homeostasis and salutogenesis, allowing optimal functioning of critical systems including, without limit, the immune, cardiovascular, endocrine and musculoskeletal systems.

Additionally, chiropractic care for patients in acute pain can help keep patients from accessing other types of health care, which is being taxed by COVID-19 patients.



The Plain Language of Emergency Orders Recognize

Chiropractic as “Critical”



Emergency Orders and Declarations throughout the United States have defined “Critical Businesses” exempted from closures. These Orders reveal the services and products provided by doctors of chiropractic are critical and essential.

Doctors of chiropractic are essential health care providers sharing in the public health responsibility of slowing the transmission of COVID-19. Doctors of chiropractic have been recognized as essential health care providers in both State and Federal laws for decades.

Chiropractors are assisting the front lines in caring for those with urgent spinal, neural, musculoskeletal and other conditions of the human body, while freeing emergency rooms from those health challenges chiropractors can best manage.

Chiropractors Provide Essential Health Services Under State Laws

Doctors of Chiropractic are portal of entry providers into the health care system in every state and for many patients serve as their primary care provider.

State laws generally provide that the practice of chiropractic includes the diagnosing and analyzing of human ailments and the use of sanitary, hygienic, nutritional, and physical remedial measures for the management and prevention of disease. Chiropractors are trained and responsible for all public health interventions and reporting.

Doctors of chiropractic are generally recognized as physician providers under states Workers' Compensation Acts and injured workers must be able to get care at this time for acute injuries.



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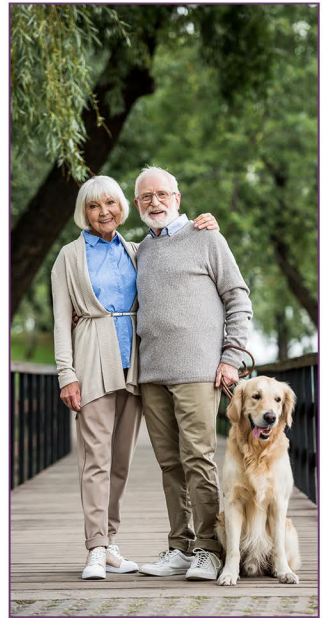
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Doctors of Chiropractic are Recognized as Important Providers in Federal Programs

Doctors of Chiropractic have physician status in Medicare, the largest health system in the nation. Notably, Part B of Medicare provides that the term “physician” includes a chiropractor who meets the specified qualifying requirements.

Chiropractors are also considered physicians in the Veterans Administration. Chiropractic care is included in the Medical Benefits Package available to all enrolled Veterans and offered on-site at Veteran facilities or through Community Care. The VA is expanding its use of chiropractic treatment of Veterans through its Integrated Clinical Practice chiropractic residency program, in part, as a result of a September 2019 Defense Department report mandated by Congress that shows chiropractic care reduces lower back pain and may increase fitness among troops.

Chiropractors are authorized to perform necessary Department of Transportation physical exams required of drivers of commercial vehicles who transport essential medical and other supplies to hospitals and treatment facilities and transporting food to stores. The federal regulations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 49 C.F.R. Section 391 requires drivers of commercial vehicles to have a periodic physical examination by a “medical examiner” and “medical examiner” is defined to include doctors of chiropractic.



The Department of Homeland Security Includes Chiropractors as Essential Critical Workers



The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) within the Department of Homeland Security, recently issued its memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response. CISA developed a list of “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers,” which includes chiropractors. “Functioning critical infrastructure is imperative during the response to the COVID-19 emergency for both public health and safety as well as community well-being.”

As outlined above, State and Federal laws recognize doctors of chiropractic as important “healthcare providers” “physicians” “medical examiners” and “doctors.” Chiropractors are a critical subset of health care providers that may assist other, non-COVID-19 patients, to support overall health, including immune health, as well as pain and injuries.

Chiropractors Are Also Specialists

In addition to these essential aspects of health care, chiropractors are the only health care providers trained and licensed to provide care for the neuromusculoskeletal ramifications from structural spinal shifts that cause obstruction of the nervous system which impact the whole health and vitality of the individual. Chiropractors refer to these structural spinal shifts as vertebral subluxations.

Chiropractors have provided these essential health services for over 100 years and have done so during pandemics, natural disasters and following terrorist attacks such as 9/11 at Ground Zero.



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