

Resolution #2

Six Key Elements of a Modern Chiropractic Act

Submitted By:

ACA State Advocacy Committee, Craig Newman, DC; Michael R. Martin, DC; Mariangela Penna, DC; Jennifer Walker, DC; Kathy Boulet, DC; Debra Hoffman, DC; Michael Simone, DC; Dale White, DC; Ken Perkins, DC; Michael Taylor, DC; Bill Wolfson, DC; Joel Stevans, DC; David Dziura, DC, Robert Jones, DC, and Eric Hemmett, DC

WHEREAS, the variability of State Chiropractic Regulation has long created uncertainty and confusion for the general public, Chiropractic patients and Chiropractic Physicians and has impeded the development and progress of the Chiropractic Profession.

WHEREAS, the efforts to create a “Model Chiropractic Practice Act” have dragged on for more than two decades in part due to the tremendous variability in the state statutes themselves.

WHEREAS, the identification of key elements which should be included in a Best Practice, Modern State Chiropractic Law while challenging, is a more straightforward and attainable goal that is not affected by the variability of state statutes.

WHEREAS, ACA is the largest Chiropractic Association in the world and is best equipped with resources and information for the development state law issue briefs, talking points, research documentation and to provide guidance for the development of a Best Practice, Modern Chiropractic Act,

WHEREAS, the terms physician and medicine are used throughout state statutes to identify doctors who may be included in state health initiatives, state health programs, insurance and reimbursement systems, and that the absence of the terms “Chiropractic Physician” and “Chiropractic Medicine” can be used to restrict patients’ access to chiropractic services in initiatives and programs, sometimes can lead to discriminatory policies in reimbursement systems and can create confusion for Chiropractic patients and the general public regarding what should be expected when visiting a Chiropractic office for care.

WHEREAS, Chiropractic patients and the general public are best served when the Chiropractic scope of practice is dynamic and determined by doctoral and post-doctoral education, training and experience so that a Chiropractic Physician can provide safe, best practice patient care and avoid unnecessary duplication of services.

WHEREAS, Chiropractic patients and the general public are best served when a Chiropractic Physician can fully manage the process of examination, diagnosis and health assessment including referral to other physicians and specialists for consultation and the prescription of specific tests or procedures such as diagnostic imaging, laboratory tests, home testing equipment for blood pressure or glucose monitoring, etc.

WHEREAS, Chiropractic patients and the general public are best served when a Chiropractic Physician can fully manage their care and treatment including referral to other physicians and specialists for evaluation and treatment and the prescription of care or treatment such as skilled home care, exercise rehabilitation, skilled nursing services, occupational or physical therapy, wheel chairs, crutches, etc.

WHEREAS, Chiropractic patients and the general public are best served when a Chiropractic Physician has full authority to counsel patients regarding general health matters, wellness and health optimization

WHEREAS, Chiropractic patients and the general public are best served when a Chiropractic Physician has full authority to manage and train health care teams and participate in collaborative and integrative health care groups.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Six Key Elements which should be considered or included in a Modern Chiropractic Act are:

1. “Chiropractic Physician” and “Chiropractic Medicine” as the Regulatory Terms of Licensure.
2. Scope of Practice Determined by Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Education, Training and Experience Obtained Through Appropriately Accredited Institutions.
3. Full Management, Referral and Prescription Authority for Patient Examination, Diagnosis, Differential Diagnosis and Health Assessment.
4. Full Management, Referral and Prescription Authority for the Care and Treatment of Neuromusculoskeletal and Other Health Conditions or Issues.
5. Full Authority for the Delivery of Information, Advice, Recommendations and Counseling Regarding General Health Matters, Wellness and Health Optimization.
6. Full Authority and Adaptable Requirements for the Management and Training of Health Care Teams and the Participation in Collaborative or Integrative Health Care Groups.

RATIONALE,

The variability of state Chiropractic practice regulation has long created uncertainty and confusion for the general public, Chiropractic patients and Chiropractic Physicians. Further, the lack of more uniform regulation has impeded the development and progress of the Chiropractic Profession itself.

Efforts to create a “Model Chiropractic Practice Act” have dragged on for more than two decades, slowed in large part by the tremendous variability in the state statutes themselves. The identification of key elements which should be included in a best practice, modern Chiropractic act is a more straightforward and attainable goal that is not affected by the variability and state statutes.

ACA is the largest and most diverse Chiropractic association in the world. It is best equipped with resources and information to develop a list of key elements which should be included in a modern state Chiropractic act. ACA is also most capable of creating documents (e.g. a state law issues brief, legislative talking points and research documentation) which could be used by state associations to support the modernization of the Chiropractic practice act in their state.

The ACA policy, “The Six Key Elements of a Modern Chiropractic Act” will help facilitate greater uniformity of Chiropractic practice regulation in all jurisdictions. This policy is, at the same time, consistent with ACA’s existing “states’ rights” policy. The creation of this new ACA policy also creates a road map that will guide ACA leadership, staff, and committees when a Chiropractic association requests ACA support and assistance for an initiative to modernize their state Chiropractic act.