

Scope of Practice

Date adopted: October 25, 2019

Last updated: October 25, 2019

It is the position of the Board that Doctors of Chiropractic are trained in physical examination, diagnosis, treatment, management, reassessment and referral. They possess the training to identify a patient's health problems and either treat or refer, as warranted, by the diagnosis and any scope of practice considerations.

It is the position of the Board that it is within the chiropractic scope of practice to use diagnostic methods including but not limited to blood and urine evaluation, diagnostic imaging, electro-diagnostic studies, orthopedic and neurological examination, meridian procedures, and nutritional deficit assessment.

It is the position of the Board that it is within the chiropractic scope of practice to use therapeutic procedures including but not limited to spinal manipulation and rehabilitative activity, durable medical equipment, physiological therapeutics, acupuncture (after meeting requirements of 21 NCAC 10 .0208), dry needling (see Dry Needling Position Statement), and nutritional management. Nutritional supplements and other natural substances are those described in 21 NCAC 10 .0209.

It is the position of the Board, in an environment of ever-evolving treatments, that all licensees are required to educate themselves through formal, post-graduate education/training with respect to procedures, technologies, modalities and other treatments that are new to them. Training should be adequate to perform any and all such treatments at accepted and prevailing standards of care. Patient harm can occur when licensees practice outside areas in which they were formally trained and are unable to meet applicable standards of care.

When appropriate, the Board will publish Position Statements on procedures, technologies, modalities and treatments to provide specific guidance to licensees.

****See also Standard of Acceptable Care Position Statement.***

*****It is also prudent for DCs to confirm that their liability insurance provides coverage for any new procedures, technologies, modalities or treatments they intend to perform.***