

**INFORMED CONSENT TO CHIROPRACTIC TREATMENT**

It is important to consider the benefits, risks and alternatives to treatment. This will help you make an informed decision about proceeding with care. Chiropractic treatment includes adjustment, manipulation and mobilization of the spine and other joints of the body. It also includes soft-tissue techniques, therapeutic modalities and exercise.

**BENEFITS** - Chiropractic treatment has been shown to be effective for complaints of the neck, back and other areas of the body related to nerves, muscles and joints. Treatment by your chiropractor can relieve pain, including headache, altered sensation, muscle stiffness and spasm. It can also increase mobility and improve function.

**RISKS** - The risks associated with chiropractic treatment vary according to each patient's condition as well as the location and type of treatment. The risks include:

- **Temporary worsening of symptoms** – Treatment may cause some discomfort or an increase in pre-existing symptoms of pain or stiffness. This can last a few hours to a few days.
- **Sprain or strain** – A muscle or ligament sprain or strain may occur. These should resolve within a few days or weeks with rest, minor care and/or protection of the affected area.
- **Rib fracture** – A rib fracture may occur. This can be painful and limit your activity for some time. These usually heal over several weeks with or without further treatment.
- **Disk Injury or aggravation** – Some reported cases associate chiropractic treatment with injury or aggravation of a disc condition. This is rare. Spinal discs may degenerate with age or become damaged, with or without symptoms. Signs and symptoms may include neck and back pain, impaired mobility, or radiating pain and numbness into the legs or arms. In severe cases, impaired bowel or bladder function or impaired leg or arm function may occur, which may need surgery.
- **Stroke** – Some reported cases associate chiropractic treatment of the neck with stroke. This is rare. This type of stroke is a serious event involving arteries in the neck and the interruption of blood flow to the brain. The consequences of a stroke can include impairment of vision, speech, balance and brain function, as well as paralysis or death. If signs of stroke occur, seek medical attention immediately.
- **Skin irritation or burn** – Skin irritation or a burn may occur with the use of some types of electrical and light therapies. Skin irritation should resolve. A burn may leave a permanent scar.

**ALTERNATIVES** - Alternatives to chiropractic treatment may include consulting other health professionals, over-the counter pain relievers, rest, and exercise. Each may have their own benefits and risks.

**QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS** - Please ask questions at any time about your assessment and treatment. Bring any concerns you have to the chiropractor's attention. If you are not comfortable, you may stop treatment at any time. You are encouraged to be involved in and responsible for your care. Inform your chiropractor immediately of any change in your health or condition.

I acknowledge that I have discussed my condition and the treatment plan with the chiropractor. I understand the nature of the treatment offered to me. I have considered the benefits and risks of treatment and the treatment alternatives. I have read this form or had it read to me. I consent to chiropractic treatment as proposed to me.

**DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM UNTIL YOU MEET WITH THE CHIROPRACTOR**

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PATIENT NAME (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
PATIENT / LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIROPRACTOR SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE