

HEALTH PROFESSIONS LICENSING AUTHORITY	
TITLE: SPINAL MANIPULATION POLICY	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 8 July 2005	REVIEWED: August 2007
BOARD: CHIROPRACTORS & OSTEOPATHS BOARD of the NORTHERN TERRITORY PHYSIOTHERAPISTS of the NORTHERN TERRITORY	

POLICY STATEMENT

Spinal manipulation is defined as the rapid application of high velocity / low amplitude force whether by manual or mechanical means to any part of a person's body that affects a joint or segment of the vertebral column. Only practitioners who have successfully completed the relevant accredited training should conduct spinal manipulation.

OBJECTIVE

To ensure public safety through ensuring good professional judgement is exercised by restricting the practice of spinal manipulation to registered Chiropractors, Osteopaths, Physiotherapists and Medical Practitioners who have completed the recognised relevant training.

BACKGROUND

Studies on spinal manipulation suggest that the rate of serious complication of spinal manipulation are rare and ranges from 1 incident for every 400,000 to 2 million treatments by qualified practitioners.

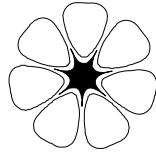
The Boards are aware that prevention of complications from any health care treatment is facilitated when good professional judgement is exercised and quality care is provided. It would follow that improper manipulative techniques are a major risk factor of spinal manipulation and the greatest contraindication to spinal manipulation is a lack of training and skill of the person performing the procedure.

The Boards acknowledge that Chiropractors, Osteopaths and Physiotherapists are the only professions that are nationally and internationally recognised as having the appropriate training, knowledge and skills to conduct spinal manipulation. However, it is aware that there are some accredited training programs available to other professions.

POLICY

A person must not engage in spinal manipulation in the course of providing a health service unless the person:

- a) *Has completed an accredited course in spinal manipulation;*
- b) Is a registered chiropractor, or a chiropractic student acting under the direct supervision of a registered chiropractor in the course of the student's training and instruction for a qualification as a chiropractor; or
- c) Is a registered osteopath, or an osteopathy student acting under the direct supervision of a registered osteopath in the course of the student's training and instruction for a qualification as an osteopath; or
- d) Is a registered physiotherapist, or a physiotherapy student under the direct supervision of a registered physiotherapist in the course of the student's training and instruction for a qualification as a physiotherapist; or
- e) Is a registered medical practitioner, or a medical student under the direct supervision of a registered medical practitioner who has successfully completed the relevant accredited training to conduct spinal manipulation.



BREACH OF POLICY

The Health Practitioners Act provides the authority for the Board to take appropriate action against those unqualified persons conducting spinal manipulation.

Acknowledgements:

- Queensland Chiropractors Act 2001- Section 120A Restriction
- New South Wales, Public Health Act 1991 – Section 10AC spinal manipulation not to be practised unregistered person.
- New South Wales, Osteopaths Act 2001, - Section 10AC prohibits spinal manipulation by persons who are not to be registered chiropractors, medical practitioners, osteopaths or physiotherapists.
- Australian Osteopathic Association, 2004 website
- Lawrence S Glass, DO, State of the Art Integrative Medicine website 2004.
- American Chiropractic Association, Spinal Manipulation Policy Statement, 2003
- Dynamic Chiropractic, August 9, 1999 Volume 17. USA.
- Clare Delany, Regulating physiotherapy, Australian Journal of Physiotherapy, 2000, Vol 6.