



**MEDICAL BOARD of the NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**TITLE: SPINAL MANIPULATION POLICY STATEMENT**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: 27 February 2006**

**REVIEWED: March 2009**

**DEFINITION**

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.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Only practitioners who have successfully completed the relevant accredited training should conduct spinal manipulation.

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

- a) *Has completed an accredited course in spinal manipulation, or*
- b) *Is a registered medical practitioner, or a medical student under the direct supervision and instruction of a health practitioner registered in the Northern Territory who has successfully completed the relevant accredited training in 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:**

This policy was developed following consultation with:

- The Chiropractors and Osteopaths Board of the Northern Territory,
- The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, and
- The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners