

## *ICA POLICY STATEMENT ON*

# *Chiropractic Diagnosis*

The Doctor of Chiropractic is educated in the basic clinical and chiropractic sciences, in other health related subjects, and in appropriate physical, clinical, laboratory and radiological investigative procedures. A Doctor of Chiropractic is considered by the International Chiropractors Association to be a portal of entry, primary health-care provider.

The ICA holds that it is a basic responsibility of the doctor of chiropractic to employ such diagnostic processes as are necessary in his or her professional judgment to determine the need for care and, in particular, to detect the presence, location and nature of chiropractic lesions (subluxation and attendant biomechanical, biochemical, structural and neurophysiological problems, etc.) and prepare and administer an appropriate course of care within the realm of chiropractic specialty. In addition, Doctors of Chiropractic use diagnostic procedures for the purpose of:

### **A. Determining appropriate case management.**

1. To ascertain the nature of the patient's problem and respond appropriately so as to secure the optimal care for the patient. Inherent in this concept is the obligation to consult with or refer to other health care providers before, during or after the rendering of chiropractic care, if in his/her professional opinion, it is appropriate and in the best interest of the patient.
2. To assess any subluxation complexes discovered in the patient along with related biomechanical, biochemical and neurophysiological presentations.
3. To identify any associated, aggravating or complicating conditions that are found to exist concomitantly with the subluxation complexes.
4. To administer a regimen of care and the response thereto which includes appropriate monitoring of the body's physiology.

### **B. Monitoring the effectiveness of chiropractic care.**

1. To monitor changes in the patient's condition and to determine whether or not chiropractic care is answering the needs of the patient.
2. To ascertain whether or not a significant reduction in previously detected abnormal conditions is occurring.

### **C. Provide the patient counseling and a prognosis for the future.**

The ICA is committed to the concept that the chiropractic profession is a specialized field in the health care delivery system and that its primary focus and expertise in diagnosis relates to the functional alignment of the osseous structures of the human body, particularly the spine, to determine the relationship of these structures with the nervous system and how this relationship affects the restoration and preservation of health.