

Standard of Practice S-015  
Executive Committee and Quality Assurance Committee  
Approved by Council: February 10, 2004  
Amended: June 13, 2004

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*Note to Readers: In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that affects chiropractic practice, the legislation governs.*

### Intent

The purposes of the standard of practice are:

- to ensure the public is aware that immunization/vaccination is outside the scope of practice of chiropractic and chiropractors do not have the legislative authority to immunize/vaccinate patients; and
- to ensure that chiropractors advise patients to consult health providers who have immunization/vaccination within their scope of practice.

### Description of Standard

Chiropractors may not, in their professional capacity, treat or advise patients/ others with respect to immunization/vaccination as it is outside their scope of practice, as defined in Section 3 of the *Chiropractic Act, 1991*.

In responding to requests from patients and members of the public regarding immunization/vaccination, members shall:

1. advise that immunization/vaccination is outside the scope of practice of chiropractic and chiropractors do not have the legislative authority to immunize/vaccinate patients; and
2. advise patients to consult with health providers who have immunization/vaccination within their scope of practice, namely, physicians, nurses and nurse practitioners.

### Legislative Context

Section 3 (1) of the Health Professions Procedural Code - One of CCO's objects under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 (RHPA)* is to "develop, establish and maintain programs and standards of practice to assure the quality of the practice of the profession."

The Professional Misconduct Regulation under the *Chiropractic Act, 1991*, includes the following as an act of professional misconduct:

## The Practice of the Profession and the Care of and Relationship with Patients

### Section 2:

Contravening a standard of practice of the profession or failing to maintain the standard of practice expected of members of the profession.

### Section 13:

Failing to advise a patient to consult with another health professional when the member knows or ought to know that,

- the patient's condition is beyond the scope of practice and competence for the member,
- the patient requires the care of another health professional, or
- the patient would be most appropriately treated by another health professional.

## Miscellaneous Matters

### Section 29:

Contravening a federal, provincial or territorial law [which includes the *Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990*] ... if the contravention is relevant to the member's suitability to practice.

Engaging in conduct or performing an act that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.

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**The RHPA includes the following:**

**Treatment, etc., where risk of harm:**

### Section 30 (1):

No person, other than a member treating or advising within the scope of practice of his or her profession, shall treat or advise a person with respect to his or her health in circumstances in which it is reasonably foreseeable that serious physical harm may result from the treatment or advice or from an omission from them.

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**Offence:**

Section 40 (1): Every person who contravenes subsection 27(1) or 30(1) is guilty of any offence and on conviction is liable to a fine of not more than \$25,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or both.