
SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION OF CHIROPRACTORS IN TRAINING



Policy P-050

Registration Committee

Approved by Council: December 3, 2010

Amended: November 29, 2018, November 25, 2021 (came into effect February 25, 2022)

*This policy replaces the former policy entitled “Student Field Placement Temporary Policy”

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

INTENT

To clarify for members CCO’s interpretation of section 29(1)(b) of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, which provides:

“29(1) An act by a person is not in contravention of subsection 27(1) [the provision prohibiting the performance of controlled acts] if it is done in the course of,

(b) fulfilling the requirements to become a member of a health profession and the act is within the scope of practice of the profession and is done under the supervision or direction of a member of the profession.”

For the purposes of this policy:

- “Accredited Chiropractic Programme” means a chiropractic programme accredited or recognized by the Council on Chiropractic Education (Canada) or a chiropractic education program considered equivalent by the Council to such a program.
- “Preceptorship Programme” means a student practice placement programme of an accredited chiropractic program. A chiropractic student is required to practise under the supervision or direction of a member of the profession.

Chiropractic students participating in an accredited school’s preceptorship programme will be considered to be “fulfilling the requirements” of becoming a chiropractor for the purposes of section 29(1) and 30(5) of the *RHPA* if they are enrolled in an accredited chiropractic programme.

For the purposes of this policy, the following principles shall be applied:

- Safe and effective care of the patient takes priority over the training endeavour;

- Proper training optimizes patient care as well as the educational experience;
- The autonomy and personal dignity of students and patients must be respected;
- Joint decision-making and exchange of information between the supervising member and student provides an optimal educational experience;
- Professionalism, which includes demonstration of compassion, service, altruism and trustworthiness is essential in all interactions in the supervision environment in order to provide the best quality care to patient.

DESCRIPTION OF POLICY

- Chiropractic students participating in an accredited school’s preceptorship programme will be considered to be “fulfilling the requirements” of becoming a chiropractor for the purposes of section 29(1) and 30(5) of the *RHPA* if they are enrolled in an accredited chiropractic programme.
- A member may participate in a preceptorship programme of an accredited chiropractic programme by providing supervision or direction of a student performing a controlled act, provided the member:
 - holds a General (i.e. active) certificate of registration
 - is in good standing with CCO¹
 - is a qualified participant in a preceptorship programme of an accredited chiropractic programme
 - has appropriate malpractice protection which provides coverage for controlled acts performed by students
- For the purposes of section 29(1) and 30(5) of the *RHPA*, the supervision or direction of a student participating in the preceptorship programme requires that the supervising chiropractor be present on the premises and available for consultation at all times during the student’s performance of patient-related activities.
- The supervision and direction of the student must comply with the standards adopted by the accredited chiropractic programme with regard to the preceptorship placement.
- The member shall ensure that the student obtains consent to any examination or treatment, consistent with Standard of Practice S-013: Consent, that is:

¹ “Good Standing” refers to the status of a member if they do not have a past discipline or incapacity finding with CCO. The Registration Committee may consider General (Provisional) applications involving a member with a past discipline or fitness to practise finding in a supervisory role to determine if the member may act in a supervisory role. Considerations of the Registration Committee will include but are not limited to: the nature, date and penalty of the discipline or fitness to practise finding, any other regulatory findings involving the member, whether the finding has been expunged or reversed on appeal, and any steps the member has taken to address the findings of the discipline or fitness to practise decision.

- fully informed
- voluntarily given
- related to the patient’s condition and circumstances
- not obtained through fraud or misrepresentation; and
- evidenced in a written form signed by the patient or otherwise documented in the patient record

As part of the informed consent process, the member shall inform, discuss and ensure that the patient has an understanding that they will be receiving examination or treatment from a student under the supervision of the member. The member shall ensure that the patient has an opportunity to request not to receive an examination and treatment from a student.

Any record of consent shall indicate that the patient has an understanding and has consented to receiving examination and treatment from a student, and the examination or treatment was being provided by a student under the member’s supervision or direction.

- The member shall ensure that the student complies with all CCO regulations, standard of practice, policies and guidelines.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

All activities and services performed by members must relate directly to the chiropractic scope of practice and authorized acts as set out in the *Chiropractic Act, 1991*, as follows:

Chiropractic Scope of Practice

The practice of chiropractic is the assessment of conditions related to the spine, nervous system and joints and the diagnosis, prevention and treatment, primarily by adjustment, of,

- (a) dysfunctions or disorders arising from the structures or functions of the spine and the effects of those dysfunctions or disorders on the nervous system; and
- (b) dysfunctions or disorders arising from the structures or functions of the joints.

Authorized Acts

In the course of engaging in the practice of chiropractic, a member is authorized, subject to the terms, conditions and limitations imposed on his or her certificate of registration, to perform the following:

1. Communicating a diagnosis identifying, as the cause of a person’s symptoms,
 - i. A disorder arising from the structures or functions of the spine and their effects on the nervous system, or
 - ii. A disorder arising from the structures or functions of the joints of the extremities.

2. Moving the joints of the spine beyond a person's usual physiological range of motion using a fast, low amplitude thrust.
3. Putting a finger beyond the anal verge for the purpose of manipulating the tailbone.

Section 30(1) of the *RHPA*:

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

Section 30(5)(b) of the *RHPA*:

Subsection (1) does not apply with respect to anything done by a person in the course of,

(b) fulfilling the requirements to become a member of a health profession in the person is acting within the scope of practice of the profession under the supervision or direction of a member of the profession.

