

# **Ethical Guidelines for the Chiropractors in the State of New Mexico**

## **“The greatest good for the patient”**

### **PREAMBLE**

This Code of Ethics is based upon the fundamental principle that the ultimate end and objective of the chiropractor's professional services and efforts should be “The greatest good for the patient.” This Code of Ethics is for the guidance of the profession with respect to the responsibilities to the patients, the public, to fellow practitioners and for such consideration as may be given them by the New Mexico State Legislature, The New Mexico Board of Chiropractic Examiners and also by the New Mexico Chiropractic Association to the extent that they are authorized under New Mexico law to exercise enforcement or disciplinary function.

### **RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PATIENT**

- A. Doctors of chiropractic should hold themselves ready at all times to respond to the call of those needing their professional services, although they are free to accept or reject a particular patient.
- B. Doctors of chiropractic should attend to their patients only as often as they consider necessary to insure the well-being of their patients. Clinical judgment and practices should be exercised solely for the benefit of the patient.
- C. Doctors of chiropractic should terminate a professional relationship with a patient and/or make an appropriate referral when it becomes reasonably clear that the patient will not benefit from further care. Doctors of chiropractic should be ready to consult and seek the expertise of other health-care professionals when such consultation would benefit their patients or when their patients express a desire for such consultation.
- D. Having once undertaken to serve a patient, doctors of chiropractic should not neglect the patient. Doctors of chiropractic should not terminate their professional services to patients without taking reasonable steps to protect such patients, including notice, allowing the patient to obtain the professional services of another doctor and delivering to their patients all papers and documents in compliance with this Code of Ethics.
- E. Doctors of chiropractic should practice with the highest degree of professional competency and honesty in the care of their patients.
- F. Doctors of chiropractic should comply with a patient's authorization to provide records, or copies of such records, to those whom the patient designates as authorized to inspect or receive all or part of such records. A reasonable charge may be made for the cost of duplicating records that are pertinent to the treating diagnosis.
- G. Doctors of chiropractic should preserve and protect the patient's confidences and records, except as the patient direct or consents or the law requires.
- H. Doctors of chiropractic should be loyal, compassionate and respectful to their patients.
- I. Doctors of chiropractic should recognize and respect the right of every person to free choice of chiropractors or other health care providers, and the right to change such choices at will.
- J. Doctors of chiropractic are entitled to receive proper and reasonable compensation for their professional services commensurate with the value of the services they have rendered and the nature of the condition.

- K. Doctors of chiropractic should maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct and should refrain from illegal or morally reprehensible conduct or comments.
- L. Doctors of chiropractic should assure that the patient is presented with enough information to make an informed decision in regard to proposed chiropractic treatment.

#### **RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC**

- A. Doctors of chiropractic should observe the appropriate laws, decisions of the New Mexico Board of Chiropractic Examiners and cooperate with the pertinent activities and policies of the Association, or any other body that is legally authorized to regulate or assist in the regulation of the chiropractic profession
- B. Doctors of chiropractic may advertise but should exercise utmost care that such advertising is accurate, not misleading, and is correct in representing the chiropractor's professional status. Communications to the public should not create unjustified expectations of results. Doctors of chiropractic should conform to all applicable New Mexico laws and regulations in connection with professional advertising.
- C. Doctors of chiropractic should continually strive to improve their skills and competency by keeping abreast of current developments contained in health and scientific literature and by participating in continuing chiropractic educational programs and utilizing all other appropriate means as well.
- D. Doctors of chiropractic may testify either as an expert witness or as a treating doctor when their patients are involved in court cases, workers' compensation proceedings or in other similar administrative proceedings in personal injury and related cases.
- E. Doctors of chiropractic should be concerned with the reputation of the chiropractic profession and should bring to the attention of the appropriate authorities those chiropractors who engage in conduct inconsistent with this Code of Ethics, or statutes or regulations within the State of New Mexico.

#### **RESPONSIBILITY TO THE ASSOCIATION AND THE PROFESSION**

- A. Doctors of chiropractic should recognize that their public behavior may have an impact on the ability of the profession to serve the public. Doctors of chiropractic should promote public confidence in the chiropractic profession.
- B. Doctors of chiropractic should recognize their obligation to help others acquire knowledge and skill in the practice of the profession. They should maintain high standards of scholarship, education, training and objectivity in the accurate and full dissemination of information and ideas.
- C. Doctors of chiropractic should promote and maintain cordial inter-professional and intra-professional relationships.
- D. Doctors of chiropractic should support the New Mexico Chiropractic Association and actively participate in assisting with the goals of the association.
- E. The New Mexico Chiropractic Association does not condone any illegal and /or unethical activities. Officers, and members found guilty of such activities shall be subject to board disciplinary action as outlined in the policies and bylaws of the NMCA.