

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTORS

POSITION STATEMENTS

Evidence-based practice

In the UK, the General Chiropractic Council requires chiropractors to select and apply appropriate evidence-based care, where the latter is defined as clinical practice that incorporates the best available care evidence from research, the expertise of the chiropractor and the preference of the patient (General Chiropractic Council, 2016).

It is the RCC's position that chiropractors should:

- apply a biopsychosocial approach to patient management;
- ensure patients are actively involved in shared decision-making and are supported to make fully informed choices about their care;
- offer a package of care that may include advice, information, exercise, manual therapies and psychosocial interventions;
- facilitate and support patients to engage in appropriate self-management strategies;
- refer and/or co-manage patients as appropriate.

Reference

General Chiropractic Council (2016) The Code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for chiropractors. pp17, 29. <https://www.gcc-uk.org/UserFiles/Docs/Education/Amended%20Code%20Final%20-6.8.18.pdf>

Scope of Practice

In the UK, The General Chiropractic Council requires that chiropractors recognise and work within the limits of their own knowledge, skills and competencies.

It is the RCC's position that:

- a chiropractor's scope of practice is defined by their personal knowledge, skills and competencies;
- a chiropractor's scope of practice may develop as a result of their achieving further qualifications and participating in appropriate professional development activities;
- as regulated healthcare professionals, chiropractors should have the opportunity to develop and extend their scope of practice to enable them to best serve the patients in the private or NHS clinical setting in which they practice.

Use of diagnostic imaging, including X-ray

In the UK, all chiropractors graduate with the knowledge and skills to refer for diagnostic imaging and to interpret the outcomes of imaging investigations and reports. Some chiropractors graduate with the skills and competencies to produce imaging reports.

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (2017, 2018) set out the statutory responsibilities of duty-holders for radiation protection, and the basic safety standards that duty-holders must meet and some chiropractors graduate as competent to undertake any

or all of the duties of Referrer, Practitioner, Operator and/or Employer in respect of diagnostic X-ray. Other chiropractors may gain these competencies in a postgraduate setting.

It is the RCC's position that diagnostic imaging should only be used where indicated by best evidence and thus, in respect of non-specific low back pain, diagnostic imaging is not routinely indicated.

References

Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations 2017 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2017/1322/contents/made>
Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2018/121/contents/made>