

## ***Informed Consent to Chiropractic Treatment***

**The nature of chiropractic treatment:** The doctor will use his/her hands or a mechanical device to move your joints. You may feel a “click” or a “pop”, such as the noise when a knuckle is cracked, and you may feel movement in the joint. Various ancillary procedures, such as hot or cold packs; electric muscle stimulation; therapeutic ultrasound; or dry hydrotherapy may also be used.

**Possible Risks:** As with any healthcare procedure, complications are possible following chiropractic manipulation. Complications could include fracture of bone; muscular strain; ligamentous sprain; dislocations of joints; or injury of intervertebral discs, nerves, or spinal cord. Cerebrovascular injuries or stroke could occur upon severe injury to the arteries of the neck. A minority of patients may notice stiffness or soreness after the first few days of treatment. The ancillary procedures could produce skin irritation: burns; or minor complications.

**Probability of risks occurring:** The risks of complication due to chiropractic treatment have been described as “rare”, about as often as complications are seen from the taking of a single aspirin tablet. The risk of cerebrovascular injury or stroke has been estimated at one in twenty million and can be reduced even further by screening procedures. The probability of adverse reaction to ancillary procedures is also considered “rare”.

**Other treatment options which could be considered** may include the following:

*Over the counter analgesics;* The risks of these medications include irritation to stomach, liver, and kidneys, and other side effects in a significant number of cases.

*Medical Care:* Typically anti-inflammatory drugs, tranquilizers and analgesics. Risks of these drugs include a multitude of undesirable side effects and clinical dependence in a significant number of cases

*Hospitalization* in conjunction with medical care adds risk of exposure to virulent communicable disease in a significant number of cases.

*Surgery* in conjunction with medical care adds the risks of adverse reaction to anesthesia, as well as an extended convalescent period in a significant number of cases

**Risks of remaining untreated:** Delay of treatment allows for formation of adhesions, scar tissue, and other degenerative changes. These changes can further reduce skeletal mobility and induce chronic pain cycles. It is quite probable that delay of treatment will complicate the condition, making future treatment options less available and more extreme; causing a more prolonged and difficult period of rehabilitation.

Unusual risks: I have had the following unusual risks explained to me. I have read the explanation above of chiropractic treatment. I have had the opportunity to have any questions answered to my satisfaction. I have fully evaluated the risks and benefits of undergoing treatment. I have freely decided to undergo the recommended treatment. I hereby give my full consent to treatment.

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Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**WITNESS:**

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Printed Name

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Signature

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Date