

Patient name: _____ File #: _____

INFORMED CONSENT TO CHIROPRACTIC CARE

This is an explanation of the chiropractic adjustment, other treatment options, and the risks and benefits of each. The primary treatment used by doctors of chiropractic is the spinal adjustment. I will use that procedure to treat you.

THE NATURE OF THE CHIROPRACTIC ADJUSTMENT – I will use my hands, a mechanical device called an activator, or other chiropractic instruments on your body in such a way as to move your joints. This may cause an audible “pop” or “click” called an audible release. You may feel or sense movement.

THE MATERIAL RISKS INHERENT IN A CHIROPRACTIC ADJUSTMENT AND THE PROBABILITY OF SUCH RISKS OCCURRING – As with any health care procedure, there are certain complications that may arise during a chiropractic adjustment. These rare complications include: fracture, disc injuries, dislocations, muscle strain, costovertebral strains and separations. These usually occur when there is underlying pathology. Fractures are rare occurrences and generally result from some underlying weakness in the bone, which I screen for during the examination.

Some types of spinal manipulations of the neck have been associated with injuries to the arteries in the neck, leading to or contributing to serious complications, including stroke. The probability of stroke has been the subject of disagreement: One authority states that there is, at most, a one-in-a-million chance of such an outcome. Since even that risk should be avoided, I employ tests during the examination that are designed to identify if you may be at risk.

Other “rare” complications are indeed rare, and low force techniques are utilized, when possible, to help minimize any risk. Some patients will feel some stiffness and soreness following the first few days of treatment.

ADDITIONAL TREATMENTS AVAILABLE IN THIS OFFICE, AND ASSOCIATED RISKS – In addition to chiropractic adjustments, I may use the following treatments. Manual traction or Neuromuscular re-education, this may lead to soreness or headaches if 2-3 glasses of water are not consumed within one hour. Ice treatment may cause frostbite if not used according to instructions. Exercise instruction may lead to muscle strain and/or joint strain if the exercises are not performed correctly as directed.

THE NATURE OF OTHER TREATMENT OPTIONS, WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE HERE. THE MATERIAL RISKS INHERENT IN SUCH OPTIONS AND THE PROBABILITY OF SUCH RISKS OCCURRING – Self-administered care such as over-the-counter analgesics and bed rest have large risks. Long-term uses of over-the-counter medicines produce undesirable effects, which include (but are not limited to) kidney failure, as described in Copyright 2001 – Kirkland Billing current medical literature. For some risks associated with bed rest, see “Risks And Dangers of Remaining Untreated”.

Medical care with prescription drugs such as anti-inflammatory, muscle relaxants and painkillers do

have significant risks. Overuse of prescription muscle relaxants and painkillers produce undesirable side effects and patient dependence. The risks of such complications arising are dependent upon the patient's general health, severity of the patients discomfort, pain tolerance, self-discipline (in not abusing the medicine), and proper professional supervision. Medications generally cause significant risks often with rather high probabilities of occurrence.

Hospitalization with traction bears additional risks of exposure to communicable disease, iatrogenic mishap (doctor induced illness), and enormous monetary expense. The probability of iatrogenic mishap is infrequent, and exposure to communicable disease likely; but both events are dependent upon unknown variables. The risk of great monetary expense is certain.

The risks inherent in surgery include adverse reaction to anesthesia, risk of iatrogenic mishap, and all the risks stated above for hospitalization, plus an extended convalescent period.

THE RISKS AND DANGERS OF REMAINING UNTREATED – Remaining untreated allows the formation of adhesions (internal scar tissue) in the spine and associated muscles and ligaments. This reduces mobility, which then sets up a pain reaction, further limiting the range of motion and restricting normal activities of daily living in work and play, and may lead to degeneration of the spine. The probability that non-treatment will complicate a later rehabilitation is very high

DO NOT SIGN UNTIL YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE ABOVE

I have read the above explanations of risk. I have had my questions answered to my satisfaction. By signing below I state that I have weighed the risks involved in undergoing treatment and have decided that it is in my best interest to undergo chiropractic care. Having been informed of the risks, I hereby give my consent to chiropractic treatment.

Patient's signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Patient's legal guardian: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Witness: _____ Date: ___/___/___