

**Department of Health  
Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission**

# Policy Statement

<i>Title:</i>	Interim Policy on Chiropractic Diagnostic and Analytical Devices and Procedures	<i>Number:</i> CH 9-14-19
<i>References:</i>	<a href="#">RCW 18.25.005</a> <a href="#">WAC 246-808</a>	
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<i>Effective Date:</i>	November 14, 2019	
<i>Supercedes:</i>		
<i>Approved By:</i>	David Folweiler, DC, Chair	

## **BACKGROUND**

[RCW 18.25.005\(3\)](#) states that: “The chiropractic quality assurance commission shall provide by rule for the type and use of diagnostic and analytical devices and procedures consistent with this chapter.” [WAC 246-808-505](#) establishes criteria for recognizing diagnostic and analytical devices and procedures. It is the intent of the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission (Commission) to amend WAC 246-808-505.

While the rulemaking process is ongoing, this policy statement is intended to clarify:

- 1) The core principles associated with a provider’s decision to utilize any device or procedure, and,
- 2) Guidelines for determining the appropriateness of utilizing particular devices and procedures consistent with the chiropractic scope of practice in the State of Washington, as established in [RCW 18.25.005](#).

## **POLICY**

1) In deciding to utilize any device or procedure in his or her practice, the chiropractor shall have all of the following:

- a) Knowledge and understanding of the laws and rules regulating chiropractic and shall function within the legal scope of chiropractic practice;
- b) Responsibility and accountability for his or her practice, based upon, and limited to the scope of his or her education, demonstrated competence, and experience consistent with the scope of practice set forth in 18.25.005 RCW;
- c) Adequate instruction, supervision, and consultation as necessary before implementing new or unfamiliar techniques or procedures which are in his or her scope of practice;
- d) Responsibility for maintaining current knowledge in his or her field of practice; and


e) Respect for the patient's right to privacy by protecting confidential information, and shall not use confidential health care information for any purpose other than legitimate patient care purposes or as otherwise provided in the Uniform Health Care Information Act, chapter 70.02 RCW.

2) The following categories of treatment, and associated instrumentation, are permitted:

- a) Spinal adjustments,
- b) Extremity manipulation,
- c) Heat,
- d) Cold,
- e) Water,
- f) Exercise,
- g) Massage,
- h) Soft tissue manipulation,
- i) Dietary advice and recommendation of nutritional supplementation,
- j) The normal regimen and rehabilitation of the patient,
- k) First aid,
- l) Counseling on hygiene, sanitation, and preventive measures,
- m) Traction, and
- n) Light.

3) The following diagnostic and analytical devices and procedures are not approved for use by a chiropractor:

- a) The application of diathermy or electricity to the body for therapeutic purposes.
- b) The application of therapeutic ultrasound (stimulating the tissue beneath the skin's surface using very high frequency sound waves, between 800,000 Hz and 2,000,000 Hz) to the body for chiropractic treatment or care.
- c) Prescribing or dispensing of any medicine or drug.
- d) The practice of obstetrics or surgery.
- e) The use of ionizing radiation for therapeutic purposes.
- f) Colonic irrigation.
- g) ~~Any form of venipuncture~~ Penetration of the skin with a needle.
- h) Examination of breasts or genitals.
- i) Iridology, iridodiagnosis, or iridiagnosis.
- j) Hypnosis or hypnotherapy.
- k) The systematic application of homeopathy. This does not preclude the use or recommendation of topical creams or certain nutritional supplements that may contain ingredients commonly listed as "homeopathic."
- l) Manipulation Under Anesthesia (MUA) - unless the licensee performs the manipulation at a medical facility and:
  - i) Anesthesia is administered by an appropriately licensed professional; and
  - ii) The chiropractor has attained certification to perform MUA through a program that is sponsored by a college or university approved by the Commission that offers a Doctor of Chiropractic program.

  
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David Folweiler, DC, Chair

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November 14, 2019  
Date