



Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission

Newsletter January – March 2012 Edition

Table of Contents

Message from the Chair
Commission’s Mission
Licensing Fees
Rules Information
Disciplinary Actions
Commission Composition
Meeting Dates & Locations

Welcome to the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission Newsletter

This is the first issue of our newsletter to help keep the chiropractic community informed of issues related to Washington State laws as well as the work of the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission (commission).

Message from the Chair, Harold Rasmussen, DC

This is an exciting time for the commission. We have been working on the idea of a newsletter for our profession for more than three years. We are pleased to be publishing our first edition.

The Communication’s Committee has worked very hard on this project. My hat goes off to the Committee Chair, Dr. Douglas Long, and its members. Our goal is to keep the chiropractic profession informed regarding some of the decisions the commission has taken on various issues presented to us. Areas of interest may include reviews of different chiropractic laws/rules, problematic areas with respect to complaints brought before us, disciplinary actions, and on other general information we find useful for interaction within our profession and the public. Our hope is that with improved communication we will shed some light on the reasons behind these decisions.

We are looking forward to a quarterly publication of this newsletter and we hope that you find this information useful and valuable. Please don’t hesitate to contact the program manager with newsletter suggestions, areas of interest, improvements, etc.

Commission’s Mission

The commission has many duties and responsibilities. Our primary goal is to protect the public. We also set standards in rule, adjudicate complaints against chiropractors, and work to educate the profession. Occasionally chiropractors will violate state laws or rules, because they were not aware of what the law is, or what it means. In the past, we have made presentations at state conventions in an effort to educate chiropractors and assist with understanding the boundaries of the profession. Understanding the commission’s responsibilities can help a chiropractor realize the consequence of violating a state law or rule. Due to changes in public perception and industry standards, updates in the complaint process have become essential. Issues surrounding documentation of care, record retention, advertising, and fee structure are examples of common inquiries. We look forward to upholding our mission to protect the public it serves by improving chiropractors’ understanding of their responsibilities as a license holder.

Governor
The Honorable Christine Gregoire

Department of Health
Mary C. Selecky, Secretary

Bob Nicoloff
Executive Director

[Leann Yount](#)
Program Manager

Commission Members

Harold Rasmussen, DC
Chair

Gary “Gabe” Smith, DC
Vice-Chair

Aaron Chan, DC

Patrick Espana, JD
Public Member

Winfield Hobbs, DC

Bryson Langel, DC

Douglas Long, DC

Ronald Rogers, DC

Robert Schmitt, DC

James Slakey
Public Member

Louise Stephens
Public Member

Gita Vasudeva, DC

Matthew Waldron, DC

Vacant. DC

Licensing Fees

The commission serves as the regulatory and disciplinary body for chiropractors in Washington State. Chiropractic license fees support its work.

[RCW 43.70.250](#) requires chiropractic fees to cover all of the work done by the commission. There are license application fees, renewal fees, and reactivation fees. Sometimes, special fees are added to the licensing fees for specific reasons. For example, in 2007 the legislature approved a fee for the University of Washington to make an online library, called HEAL-WA, available to certain health professions, including chiropractors.

The commission constantly reviews and improves its business as a steward of licensing fees and looks at ways to implement cost savings, yet carry out their mission - to protect and improve the health of people in Washington. While the vast majority of chiropractors in Washington practice safely and competently, a small percentage of chiropractors do not. The commission receives complaints of poor chiropractic care and practices, and patient harm from chiropractors. It investigates complaints and collects evidence to support charges on chiropractic licenses. Most of the commission's expenses involve investigating complaints and taking disciplinary action where appropriate. The fees cover the costs of investigation, legal staff, and judges. The commission strives for improvement in the competency and quality of chiropractors.

The Secretary of the Department of Health regulates the various health professionals licensing fees. Fees are the only area the commission doesn't regulate. To determine the appropriate licensing fees, the department projects anticipated revenue and costs forward six years. Growth in the number of chiropractors and complaint trends are closely considered.

Rules Information

The commission has received an increase of complaints against chiropractors involving documentation of care issues. These issues may be avoided with knowing and applying the requirements.

[WAC 246-808-560](#) - Documentation of Care, was updated on July 19, 2010 and effective on August 19, 2010.

Governor Gregoire issued an Executive Order on November 17, 2010 freezing all non-critical rulemaking through December 31, 2012. The Commission filed a CR101 to conduct rulemaking on WAC 246-808-150 – Continuing Education, WAC 246-808-550 – Future Care Contracts Prohibited, and WAC 246-808-180 – Expired Licenses prior to the moratorium. The rulemaking was placed on hold until the moratorium is lifted. However, the Commission was granted an exception to proceed with rulemaking on WAC 246-808-180 for patient safety reasons.

2011 Washington State Disciplined Chiropractors and Chiropractic X-Ray Technicians

The commission has taken the following disciplinary actions, or withdrawn charges, against Washington State licensed chiropractors and chiropractic x-ray technicians. You can find all orders on the Department of Health's Provider Credential Search website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/providercredentialsearch/>

January 2011

In January 2011 the commission suspended the license of chiropractor **Rhett A. Conner** (CH00003540). Conner failed to comply with a previous stipulation.

In January 2011 the commission denied the reactivation application of chiropractor **Richard F. Renzetti** (CH00001276). He billed for multiple patient treatments after allowing his license to practice as a chiropractor to expire.

February 2011

In February 2011 the commission reinstated the license of chiropractor **Stephen H. Russell** (CH00002757).

In February 2011 the commission terminated the order of probation against chiropractic x-ray technician **Fernanda E. Velderrain-Loreto** (CX60012160).

In February 2011 the commission terminated the order of probation against chiropractor **Christopher C. Wolff** (CH00003562).

In February 2011 the commission released chiropractor **Thomas James Young** (CH00002085) from terms and conditions set against his license.

March 2011

In March 2011 the commission charged chiropractor **Mark T. Dang** (CH00033803) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly failed to document patient records with any narrative description rationale for the services he billed to an insurance company.

In March 2011 the commission released chiropractor **Loren Ernst** (CH00002486) from terms and conditions set against his license.

In April 2011 the commission released chiropractor **Islamuddin Wardak** (CH00034030) from terms and conditions set against his license.

In May 2011 the commission reinstated the license of chiropractor **Michael T. Breneman** (CH00001293) and placed his license on probation for three years. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

June 2011

In June 2011 the commission placed the license of chiropractor **Mark T. Dang** (CH00033803) on probation until December 2013. He failed to document in patient records any narrative description rationale for services billed to an insurance company. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license

In June 2011 the commission placed the license of chiropractor **Dawn M. Hunter** (CH00034116) on probation for five years. She submitted insurance claims for massage sessions performed in her chiropractic clinic under the name of a practitioner who didn't provide the actual massage treatments. She must comply with terms and conditions set against her license.

July 2011

Out of State - Arizona: In July 2011 the commission reinstated the license of chiropractor **Matthew J. Reilly** (CH00034693) and placed conditions against his license. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

In July 2011 the commission charged chiropractor **Scott Kelly Akridge** (CH00001581) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly billed patients' insurance companies for treatment not provided or charted in patient records.

August 2011

In August 2011 the commission reinstated the license of chiropractor **Nicolas J. Constantin** (CH00034646) and placed his license on probation for three years. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

In August 2011 the commission entered into an agreed order with chiropractor **Michael L. Milasich** (CH00000943). He failed to adequately document treatment he provided to support the level of chiropractic services he billed for, and failed to meet the standard of care for diagnostic x-rays. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

In August 2011 the commission reprimanded chiropractor **Stephen F. Renner** (CH00001206). He failed to cooperate with an investigation of a complaint against him. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

September 2011

In September 2011 the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission withdrew charges against chiropractor **Vyacheslav A. Borisenko** (CH00033992).

In September 2011 the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission summarily suspended the credential of chiropractor **Thomas Kessinger** (CH60161096) due to a revocation of his California credential by the California State Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

October 2011

In October 2011 the Chiropractic Commission charged chiropractor **Danny D. Baldwin** (CH00003681) with unprofessional conduct. He allegedly advertised laser fat removal services and provided laser treatment to a patient which is outside the scope of practice for a chiropractor. He also failed to refund patients for services not provided.

Out of State - Florida: In October 2011 the Chiropractic Commission ended the order of probation against chiropractor **Maurice Daoud** (CH60024972).

In October 2011 the Chiropractic Commission released chiropractor **David Yi** (CH00034226) from terms and conditions set against his license.

November 2011

In November 2011 the Chiropractic Commission placed the license of chiropractor **Scott Kelly Akridge** (CH00001581) on probation for 18 months. The codes he used when billing patients' insurance didn't match his corresponding daily chart notes. He must comply with terms and conditions set against his license.

Commission Composition – Accepting New Commissioner Applications

The commission is made up of 11 chiropractors and three public members all appointed by the Governor. Commissioners may serve two four-year terms. If you are interested in applying for a position on the commission, or learning more about commissioner duties, please read the information on the website <http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/Professions/Chiropractic/default.htm> or contact the program manager at 360.236.4856 or leann.yount@doh.wa.gov.

2012 Commission Meeting Dates and Locations

April 12, 2012	Department of Health Point Plaza East, Room 152 & 153 310 Israel Rd. Tumwater, WA
June 14, 2012	Department of Health Center Creekside Three at CenterPoint – Room 1 20435 72 Ave. S., Suite 200 Kent, WA
August 9, 2012	Department of Health Center Creekside Three at CenterPoint – Room 1 20435 72 Ave. S., Suite 200 Kent, WA
October 11, 2012	Department of Health Center Creekside Three at CenterPoint – Room 1 20435 72 Ave. S., Suite 200 Kent, WA
December 13, 2012	Department of Health Point Plaza East, Room 152 & 153 310 Israel Rd. Tumwater, WA