



NEWS RELEASE

MARIANGELA PENNA, DC, PRESIDENT • 2320 NOTT STREET E 9042, SCHENECTADY, NY 12309
DECEMBER 2015

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The West Hartford Group, Inc. is a scholarly, clinical practice think tank dedicated to the acquisition of the social, cultural and professional authority for chiropractic physicians, where the Doctor of Chiropractic serves a vital role in the mainstream health delivery system as a non-surgical, primary spine care specialist dedicated to clinical excellence, intellectual honesty, professional integrity, ethical practice and the delivery of patient-centered, patient-safe, evidence-influenced care and best practice.

It has come to the attention of the West Hartford Group recently, that an organization extolling the virtues of the chiropractic “subluxation,” claimed responsibility for the adoption of a statement -- “Colorado Chiropractic Association Approves The Chiropractic Practice Act” -- by the Colorado Chiropractic Association (CCA) on September 11, 2015.

The West Hartford takes exception to some of the purported CCA statements.

With this in mind, the WHG adopted the following statement as an interim, emergent policy. Interim policies are valid for one-year and must be submitted through the regular policy-making adoption processes. WHG welcomes your comments. Interested parties may submit their observations, constructive criticism and comments to: West Hartford Group, Inc. 2320 Nott Street E #9042, Schenectady, NY 12309 or by email to: tomhyde444@gmail.com.

Where possible, commenter's observations, constructive criticism(s) and argument(s) should be Aristotelian in form and use either deductive or inductive reasoning methods,¹ or Toulmin's six elements of reasoning and rhetorical argumentation.²

¹ See, for example: Copi IM, Cohen C. Introduction to Logic (12th Ed.) Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice-Hall, 2005; Gensler HJ. Introduction to Logic (2nd Ed.) New York: Routledge, 2002.

² See, for example: Toulmin S, Rieke R, Janik A. An Introduction to Reasoning. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1979; Toulmin S. The Uses of Argument. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1958; Verlinden J. Critical Thinking and Everyday Argument. Boston: Wadsworth Printing, 2005; Rieke RD. Argumentation and Critical Decision Making (4th Ed) New York: Longman Publishing, 1997; Pojman LP. What Can We Know (2nd Ed.) An Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning, 2001.



POSITION STATEMENT POLICY PAPER

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WHG position statement on recent policy changes adopted by Colorado Chiropractic Association.

On September 11, 2015, the Colorado Chiropractic Association (CCA) released a notice of several policy positions adopted by the CCA relative to the practice of chiropractic in the state of Colorado. It is the WHG's understanding that the CCA policies in no way change or affect the laws governing the regulation of chiropractors or chiropractic licenses in the state of Colorado by the Colorado Board of Chiropractic Examiners. These motions were merely the official positions adopted of the Colorado Chiropractic Association.

The West Hartford Group, recognizing and serving the best health care interests of the public of the United States, takes exception to several of the motions passed by the Colorado Chiropractic Association in September 2015.

Whereas the Colorado Chiropractic Association has proposed that it "considers it standard practice and an acceptable standard of care for practitioners to choose to deliver care solely for the location analysis and correction of spinal subluxations in child and adult patients, regardless of whether symptoms are present. Subluxations are in and of themselves a detriment to one's health."

- The West Hartford Group had previously released a position statement supporting the view of the General Chiropractic Council of the United Kingdom, which states, "the vertebral subluxation complex is an historical concept but remains a theoretical model, as we do not have objective means of detection or data to suggest its existence. It is not supported by any clinical research evidence that would allow claims to be made that it is the cause of disease or health concerns." Consequently, the West Hartford Group supports the continued use of the chiropractic vertebral subluxation and the chiropractic vertebral subluxation complex as a historical concept and as a heuristic metaphor in our educational institutions, but not as a clinical entity, and not as a reason for treatment in the absence of symptoms and objective signs.

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Whereas the Colorado Chiropractic Association has proposed that it “considers it standard practice and an acceptable standard of care, as noted in clinical practice guidelines, to take X-Rays for the location and analysis of spinal subluxations when clinically indicated. Clinical indications include evidence of subluxation demonstrated by chiropractic examination, and is not limited to patients presenting with symptoms or a history of trauma.”

- While reviewing the most widely reported and accepted clinical care guidelines for the evaluation and management of spine related disorders, the West Hartford Group notes that, without exception, these scientifically based guidelines do not recommend spinal X-Ray imaging unless specific historical or clinical indications are present, and none of them mention the chiropractic ‘subluxation’ or the chiropractic ‘vertebral subluxation complex’ as an indication for spinal imaging. Additionally, none of these scientifically acceptable guidelines advocate for spinal imaging in the absence of symptoms.
 - The West Hartford Group supports the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR) 2005 report released by the National Academy of Sciences, which clearly states “ionizing radiation is dangerous even at low doses and that there are no safe limits.”
Certainly the benefits of exposure to ionizing radiation must outweigh the risks, and WHG knows of no evidence which demonstrates that spinal imaging improves the outcomes of chiropractic care compared to chiropractic care without spinal imaging (in the absence of ‘red flags’ which might necessitate imaging.)

Whereas “the Colorado Chiropractic Association supports chiropractic practitioners and their patient’s right to lawfully contract privately for professional services, and is opposed to regulatory agencies interfering with the ability of chiropractors to enter into lawful contracts for the provision of professional services.”

- The West Hartford Group supports those regulatory agency policies, which protect the public from unscrupulous practitioners who use

fear, and pressure, to have patients sign extended term contracts for care, often with advance payment for care.

Vetted by the WHG Membership: November 2015
Adopted by the WHG Board of Directors: December 7, 2015