



WFC POLICY STATEMENT

Approved by the WFC Assembly in 2011 in Rio de Janeiro

Courses by Chiropractors for Non-Chiropractors in Joint Adjustment

WHEREAS expertise in joint adjustment, defined for the purposes of this policy as manipulation and mobilization by hand, mechanical means or instrument and related examination procedures, is a core clinical skill developed in chiropractic education and practice;

AND WHEREAS duly qualified chiropractors or chiropractic students are defined as chiropractors who have graduated from, or chiropractic students enrolled at, chiropractic colleges that have formal chiropractic accreditation and/or are recognized by the WFC member national association in the country where the course or seminar is to be offered;

AND WHEREAS postgraduate and other short courses and seminars by chiropractors giving instruction in joint adjustment techniques should only be given to persons who are duly qualified chiropractors or chiropractic students;

AND WHEREAS it is against the interests of the public and the profession for persons to practice joint adjustment without adequate education, understanding and skill;

IT IS RESOLVED by the World Federation of Chiropractic that chiropractors should only accept such duly qualified chiropractors and chiropractic students as attendees at educational courses that include the teaching of joint adjustment, and that member associations and others in and regulating the profession should take all actions within their power to prevent chiropractors from acting in contravention of this policy.

Courses by Chiropractors for Non-Chiropractors in Clinical Skills except Joint Adjustment

WHEREAS the World Federation of Chiropractic has separate policy with respect to the teaching of joint adjustment, defined as including joint manipulation and mobilization by hand, mechanical means or instrument and related examination procedures;

AND WHEREAS many other clinical skills in manual and musculoskeletal healthcare are common to the scope of practice of a number of recognized and regulated health professionals;

AND WHEREAS it is in the interests of the public and those health professionals that they share knowledge and instruction in various of these clinical skills, thereby improving the quality of healthcare;

AND WHEREAS education courses in these clinical skills should be and should be seen to be providing qualification in the specific skills taught rather than the profession of the instructor.

IT IS RESOLVED by the World Federation of Chiropractic that it is appropriate that chiropractors provide postgraduate and other education in clinical skills except joint adjustment to persons who are not duly qualified chiropractors or chiropractic students, provided that such persons are licensed or recognized health care professionals authorized to use the clinical skills in question in their practices, and providing that there is nothing in promotion and delivery of the education and/or in any credits or certificate given that indicate or imply that the education provides skills, competencies or qualification in chiropractic.

Explanatory Notes:

1. Formerly the WFC had a policy against all technique seminars given by chiropractors to non-chiropractors in other countries. This was to protect the profession, particularly in countries where chiropractic is not yet regulated and where non-chiropractors attending such seminars could and often did then claim to practise chiropractic or even to be chiropractors.
2. These policies replace that earlier policy. The first maintains the prohibition against chiropractors teaching joint adjustment to anyone other than duly qualified chiropractors and students at chiropractic colleges. Joint adjusting skills are the core chiropractic skills, and require a substantial background of chiropractic education and psychomotor training to be performed competently and safely. The second policy acknowledges that interdisciplinary education between health professions with overlapping scopes of practice is appropriate for many other clinical skills (e.g. soft tissue techniques, rehabilitation methods, imaging and other diagnostic methods etc.)

However, in these circumstances, chiropractors presenting a course should make it clear throughout promotion and presentation that this is education in specific methods of diagnosis and/or treatment (e.g. Graston, Active Release Therapy or ART, diagnostic imaging etc.) and not chiropractic diagnosis or treatment. Additionally, no one but recognized and/or regulated health professionals should be admitted to courses.

3. In some countries the chiropractic profession is not only unrecognized but also still has an insecure future because of continuing strong opposition from other health professions. The WFC and its national member associations request all chiropractors from other countries to respect their colleagues in such countries by not offering any seminars or other clinical education to non-chiropractors unless there has been prior discussion with and approval by the relevant national association.
4. In developing these two policies the WFC and its Policies and Procedures Committee consulted widely with chiropractic leaders prominent in postgraduate education. A few believed that even chiropractic adjusting skills should be taught to other health professionals authorized by law to use spinal manipulation. However the majority did not.