



## WFC POSITION STATEMENT

### Chiropractors support and promote prevention and cessation of tobacco and nicotine use

**WHEREAS** tobacco and nicotine product exposure, both direct and indirect in all its various forms including smoking, chewing, electronic, and heated tobacco products, are harmful to health.

**AND WHEREAS** there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco.

**AND WHEREAS** tobacco and smoking kills millions of people each year, with many of these deaths being the result of non-smokers who experience second-hand exposure.

**AND WHEREAS** tobacco use and smoking directly impacts human health by causing cancer and cardiovascular disease, and their use has been found to be associated with other common disorders related to health of the spine (eg, back pain) and neuromusculoskeletal system (eg, reduced healing capacity, increased pain).

**AND WHEREAS** tobacco production has detrimental effects on world health in far reaching ways, including environmental harm due to production, processing, and waste, as well as contributing to food insecurity by harming production of healthy and affordable foods.

**AND WHEREAS** the World Health Organization (WHO) actively pursues means to curtail tobacco use throughout the world using techniques such as monitoring tobacco use and prevention policies, protecting people from tobacco use, offering help to quit tobacco use, warning about the dangers of tobacco, enforcing bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, and raising taxes on tobacco.

**AND WHEREAS** the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) recognizes that chiropractors are primary contact health care providers whose scope of practice includes both the support and promotion of optimal neuromusculoskeletal health and public health messaging with a view to helping people to make healthy living choices.

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS THE POSITION THAT** the WFC supports and promotes WHO's public health efforts to reduce and eradicate tobacco and nicotine product use in all its forms, and further recognizes that chiropractors perform an important role as primary contact health care providers to support and promote healthy behaviors for prevention and cessation of tobacco and nicotine product use for their patients and to advocate for public health efforts in their communities.

*Explanatory notes: Materials supporting this position statement are included in the following documents:*

- 1 Tobacco <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tobacco>
- 2 Tobacco control <https://www.who.int/teams/health-promotion/tobacco-control>
- 3 We need food, not tobacco <https://www.who.int/news/item/07-11-2022-we-need-food--not-tobacco---focus-of-the-world-no-tobacco-day-2023>

**Approved by the WFC Board of Directors, May 2023**