PRESS RELEASE

WFC PUBLISHES POSITION STATEMENTS ON GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICES AND CLAIMS SUBSTANTIATION.

Toronto, June 9, 2021. The World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) has approved two new position statements related to public health. Approved in principle in February and ratified at its meeting last month, the WFC Board unanimously passed the statements, which emphasize the organization's support for globally-accepted scientific and public health practices and the need for claims made by chiropractors to be capable of substantiation.

As a non-state actor (NSA) in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), the WFC collaborates with a number of departments and actively advocates for public health initiatives. In the first of its newly-published position statements, the WFC sets out its clear support for globally-accepted scientific and public health practices, especially those of WHO.

Including reference to its promotion of evidence-based practice, high standards of chiropractic education, patient, community and societal welfare, and public health, the WFC position statement aligns with the WFC Principles, notably Principle #11, which explicitly supports WHO initiatives related to diet and physical activity, healthy ageing, anti-tobacco, injury prevention and infectious disease prevention campaigns.

Meanwhile, the WFC's position in relation to health claims aims to address statements made by chiropractors in their communications in relation to effectiveness, cure or prevention. Its publication of its position statement on claims made by chiropractors comes amidst a WHO Global Conference on Communicating Science during Health Emergencies, which runs from 7-25 June. Last year, WHO, UN, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNAIDS, ITU, UN Global Pulse, and IFRC issued a joint statement calling on Member States to mitigate the harm caused by misinformation and disinformation. This was followed by a cross-regional statement signed by 132 nations in relation to the COVID-19 infodemic.

An infodemic is a proliferation of information, including false or misleading information, in digital or physical environments during a disease outbreak. Infodemics can cause confusion or risk-taking behaviors that can harm health and lead to mistrust in health authorities and an undermining of the public health response.

Both position statements are accessible on the WFC website:

- Support of globally and scientifically healthcare practices by chiropractors: wfc.org/posn_ph
- Claims of effectiveness, cure or prevention made by chiropractors: wfc.org/posn_claims
WFC POSITION STATEMENT

Support of globally and scientifically accepted healthcare practices by chiropractors

WHEREAS our mission is to advance awareness, utilization and integration of chiropractic internationally and we recognize that science and research informs care and policy decisions;

AND WHEREAS we promote evidence-based practice, which is the intersection of individual clinical expertise, best available evidence, and the values and preferences of patients, and in addition, promote chiropractic care that is people-centered, interprofessional and collaborative;

AND WHEREAS we support high standards of chiropractic education that empower graduates to serve their patients and communities as high value, trusted health professionals and we champion the rights of chiropractors to practice according to their training and expertise, recognizing that chiropractic is positioned to contribute to the health of the public;

AND WHEREAS we believe that patients have a fundamental right to ethical, professional care and the protection of enforceable regulation in upholding good conduct and practice and we recognize chiropractors as important members of a patient’s healthcare team and that interprofessional approaches best facilitate optimum outcomes;

THEREFORE the World Federation of Chiropractic hereby states, for reasons of patient, community and societal welfare and public health, that where they do not conflict with their national, state or provincial legislation, chiropractors should recognize and cooperate with globally accepted scientific, individual and public health care practices, especially those of the World Health Organization.

Approved by the WFC Board of Directors
February 16, 2021
WFC POSITION STATEMENT

Claims of effectiveness, cure or prevention made by chiropractors

WHEREAS we maintain that chiropractic practice includes the promotion of better health and the wellbeing of our patients and communities and we acknowledge that the role of chiropractic care is to enhance function, improve mobility, relieve pain and optimize wellbeing;

AND WHEREAS we support chiropractic practices that are evidence-based, people-centered, interprofessional and collaborative, at the same time we advocate that public statements and claims of effectiveness for chiropractic care are honest, legal, decent and truthful;

AND WHEREAS as health professionals, since patients and the public look to and trust chiropractors as credible sources of health information, chiropractors need to be especially careful about recommendations or claims about the outcomes of chiropractic care;

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interests of the public's health that chiropractors share accurate and scientifically sound information with patients and the public;

THEREFORE the World Federation of Chiropractic hereby states that for reasons of patient welfare and public health, chiropractors should refrain from making unsubstantiated claims of effectiveness, cure or prevention to their patients or the public in their communications, which includes broadcast and non-broadcast media.

Approved by the WFC Board of Directors
February 16, 2021