

Informed Consent

I, the undersigned, have voluntarily requested that Dr. Rachel Richards assist me in the management of my health concerns. I have understood and agree to all policies and terms provided in the Office Policies and Procedures. I understand that Dr. Richards is a chiropractor and that her services are not to be construed or serve as a substitute for standard medical care. Dr. Richards recommends that I undergo regular routine medical check-up by my medical doctor.

Medical doctors, doctors of chiropractic, osteopaths, and physical therapists who perform manipulation are required by law to obtain your informed consent before starting treatment.

I, _____, do hereby give my consent to the performance of conservative noninvasive treatment to the joints and soft tissues. I understand that the procedures may consist of manipulations/adjustment involving the movement of the joints and soft tissues. Physical therapy, home exercises, and nutritional supplements/dietary recommendations may also be used.

Routine chiropractic examination and treatment involve some of the following methods:

- o Observation: General assessment/appraisal in all postures.
- o Inspection: Viewing/looking at your body parts. Visualization includes general body viewing in a standing position, front, back, and side. All symptomatic (painful) body parts may be viewed. Women may continue wearing their bra in the course of examination unless it obscures visualization/viewing of injured/abnormal body parts. You may request an observer be present at any time during examination and/or treatment.
- o Auscultation: Using a stethoscope to listen for blood pressure and other body sounds.
- o Palpation: This means the doctor will touch you. The doctor will feel for tenderness, heat, swelling, nodularity, laxity/integrity of tissues, and other abnormalities.

- o Percussion: Using a rubber hammer and tapping on bones or tendons
- o Orthopedic/neurological testing: These are standard tests to assess your neuromusculoskeletal systems.

Although spinal manipulation/adjustment is considered to be one of the safest, most effective forms of therapy for musculoskeletal problems, I am aware that there are possible risks and complications associated with these procedures as follows:

Risks from Treatment

Soreness: I am aware that like exercise it is common to experience muscle soreness in the first few treatments.

Dizziness: Temporary symptoms like dizziness and nausea can occur but are relatively rare. Please inform Dr. Richards if you experience these symptoms.

Fractures/Joint Injury: I further understand that in isolated cases underlying physical defects, deformities, or pathologies like weak bones from osteoporosis may render the patient susceptible to injury. When osteoporosis, degenerative disk, or other abnormality is detected, this office will proceed with extra caution.

Stroke: Although strokes happen with some frequency in our world, strokes from chiropractic adjustments are rare. I am aware that nerve or brain damage including stroke is reported to occur once in one million to once in ten million treatments. Once in a million is about the same chance as getting hit by lightning. Once in ten million is about the same chance as a normal dose of aspirin or Tylenol causing death.

Physical Therapy Burns: Some of the therapies used in this office generate heat and may rarely cause a burn. Despite precautions, if a burn is obtained, there will be a temporary increase of pain and possible blistering. This should be reported to the doctor.

A thorough health history and tests will be performed on me to minimize the risk of any complication from treatment and I freely assume these risks.

Treatment Results

I also understand that there are beneficial effects associated with these treatment procedures including decreased pain, improved mobility and function, and reduced muscle spasm. However, I appreciate there is no certainty that I will achieve these benefits.

I realize that the practice of medicine as well as chiropractic, is not an exact science and I acknowledge that no guarantee has been made to me regarding the outcome of these procedures.

I agree to the performance of these procedures by my doctor and such other persons of the doctor's choosing.

Alternative Treatments Available

Reasonable alternatives to these procedures have been explained to me including rest, home applications of therapy, prescription or over-the-counter medications, exercises and possible surgery.

Medications: Medication can be used to reduce pain or inflammation. I am aware that long-term use or overuse of medication is always a cause for concern. Drugs may mask pathology, produce inadequate or short-term relief, undesirable side-effects, physical or psychological dependence, and may have to be continued indefinitely. Some medications may involve serious risks.

Rest/Exercise: It has been explained to me that simple rest is not likely to reverse pathology, although it may temporarily reduce inflammation and pain. The same is true of ice, heat, or other home therapy. Prolonged bed rest contributes to weakened bones and joint stiffness. Exercises are of limited value but are not corrective of injured nerve and joint tissues.

Surgery: Surgery may be necessary for conditions such as joint instability or serious disk rupture, among others. Surgical risks may include unsuccessful outcome, complications, pain or reaction to anesthesia, and prolonged recovery.

Non-treatment: I understand the potential risks of refusing or neglecting care may include increased pain, scar/adhesion formation, restricted motion, possible nerve damage, increased inflammation, and worsening pathology. The aforementioned may complicate treatment making future recovery and rehabilitation more difficult and lengthy.

I have read or have had read to me the above explanation of chiropractic treatment. The doctor has also asked me if I want a more detailed explanation; but I am satisfied

with the explanation and do not want any further information. I have made my decision voluntarily and freely. To attest to my consent to these examination and treatment procedures, I hereby affix my signature to this Informed Consent document.

Signature of patient:

Date and Time: _____

I explained the procedures, alternatives, and risks in conference with the patient.

Doctor's Signature

Date