



## CHIROPRACTORS

### Chiropractors in California

Chiropractors are health care practitioners who provide drug-free and non-surgical health care. Based on the beliefs that the body has an inherent power to heal itself and that health depends on a properly-functioning nervous system, chiropractic care focuses on adjustment of the spinal column to remove hindrances to the nervous system.

While chiropractic adjustment is the most common treatment performed, chiropractors may address a wide range of health care concerns using a variety of treatment measures. Some offer primary care that includes general and preventive care; others limit their practice to the specifics of spinal manipulation.

### Education

Requirements for a chiropractic license include a diploma from an accredited chiropractic college after two years of general college level studies. Accredited chiropractic colleges have a minimum of 4200 hours of instruction, which generally includes three years of coursework plus one year of clinical practice.

Instruction includes basic sciences (such as anatomy, pathology and physiology) and clinical chiropractic courses (spinal adjustive techniques/analysis, principles and practices of chiropractic, and physiologic therapeutics).

Specialized education may be obtained through postgraduate training or professional residency programs.

### Credentialing: Licensing and Certification

Chiropractors must be licensed by the [California Board of Chiropractic Examiners](#) to practice in this state. The initials "D.C." after a person's name indicate that he or she is licensed as a Doctor of Chiropractic. In addition to a high school diploma, two years of general college studies and four years of chiropractic study, chiropractors must pass parts I, II, III, IV and physiotherapy of the [National Board of Chiropractic Examiners](#) and the California

Chiropractic Law and Professional Practice Examination.

### Referrals and reimbursement

Licensed chiropractors are independent practitioners in California. Patients may see them directly, without a referral from a medical doctor. However, health insurance plans may or may not cover chiropractic care and may require a medical referral for reimbursement. Patients should check with their insurance company about its rules and policies.

To find out if someone is licensed, if there are any disciplinary actions on a chiropractor's record, or to file a complaint about a chiropractor, contact:

#### California Board of Chiropractic Examiners

2525 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 260

Sacramento, CA 95833-2931

Phone: (916)263-5355

Fax: (916)263-5369

Website: <http://www.chiro.ca.gov/>

### How can I find a chiropractor?

A physician or other health care professional may recommend a patient to a qualified chiropractor. Many professional associations and organizations have searchable databases.\* Patients should check the chiropractic board for current license status.

### For more information or to find a chiropractor:

[California Board of Chiropractic Examiners](#)

[California Chiropractic Association](#)

[National Board of Chiropractic Examiners](#)

[American Chiropractic Association](#)

*\*Note: Association databases of members may not include all licensed practitioners.*