

STANDARD OF PRACTICE

Standard of Practice: S-007
Quality Assurance Committee
Approved by Council: February 28, 1998

Putting a Finger Beyond the Anal Verge for the Purpose of Manipulating the Tailbone

Note to Readers: In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that affects chiropractic practice, the legislation governs.

Intent

To assist a member in maintaining a minimum standard of care that must be met prior to performing manipulation of the tailbone.

Objectives

- To facilitate the care and treatment of patients.
- To provide appropriate protocol for this procedure.

Description of Standard

Overview

Performing a sacro-coccygeal adjustment requires appropriate training and much practice to develop the necessary skill and competence. Familiarity with the following areas is essential for the adjustment of the sacro-coccygeal joint:

- the anatomic structures of the sacro-coccygeal joint and the surrounding area;
- the presentation of coccydynia and the ability to differentiate this pain from that of a referred pattern;
- the examination and diagnostic procedures of the sacro-coccygeal joint; and
- the treatment and adjustive techniques for coccygeal correction.

Consideration of Public Safety

To perform manipulative procedures of the sacro-coccygeal joint, a member shall be thoroughly familiar with the procedure. The member must rule out possible fracture of the coccyx before proceeding with the manipulation.

Degree of Skill

The following are important features of the skill required for manipulation of the sacro-coccygeal joint:

- knowledge of anatomical structures;
- knowledge of protocol for coccygeal correction;
- good sense in providing minimum risk to the patient; and
- the member's mindfulness of the patient's reaction to this procedure.

Informed Consent

Consent shall be fully informed and voluntarily given. A member shall fully explain the diagnosis, treatment procedure and prognosis to the patient before proceeding with the manipulation of the tailbone. It is recommended that consent be evidenced in written form.

Legislative Context

Controlled Acts

The governing legislation is the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 (RHPA)*. Specific provisions are outlined below:

"Ss. 27 (2) A 'controlled act' is any one of the following done with respect to an individual: Putting an instrument, hand or finger beyond the anal verge."

Authorized Acts

The authorized acts for chiropractors are outlined in section 4 of the *Chiropractic Act, 1991*, and include:

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"In the course of engaging in the practice of chiropractic, a member is authorized, subject to the terms, conditions and limitation imposed on his/her certificate of registration, to perform the following: Putting a finger beyond the anal verge for the purpose of manipulating the tailbone."

Summary and Conclusion

Member compliance with the protocol and procedure described herein will ensure safer administration of putting a finger beyond the anal verge for the purpose of manipulating the tailbone. Therefore, risks to the public will be minimized while still maintaining the benefits of safe and effective therapeutic treatment.