
PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY ON VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION

Professional Advisory
CCO Council

Approved by Council: March 14, 2019

Amended: April 30, 2019



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

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY

This professional advisory should be read in conjunction with Standard of Practice S-001: Chiropractic Scope of Practice.

There have been reports of measles outbreaks in Canada and other countries. As part of its role to protect the public interest, the College of Chiropractors of Ontario (CCO) recognizes that vaccinations, as mandated in the Province of Ontario, provide a safe and effective means to protect individuals from infectious diseases.

CCO reminds members and the public that treating or advising in relation to vaccination is outside of the chiropractic scope of practice. Members must not express views, or treat or advise patients or prospective patients with respect to vaccination, which includes, but is not limited to:

- Counselling or providing information to patients or prospective patients with respect to vaccination;
- Conducting seminars on vaccination; and
- Providing information on vaccination on a member's website or social media account.

Members must refer patients who ask questions related to vaccination to consult with a health professional who has the act within their scope of practice, such as a member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, a member of the College of Nurses of Ontario who holds a certificate of registration in the extended class, or a member of the Ontario College of Pharmacists of Ontario.

A member who fails to comply with this professional advisory may be the subject of an inquiry, complaint or report for a potential act of professional misconduct.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

A member is restricted from treating or advising outside the chiropractic scope of practice by section 30 of the *RHPA* as follows:

Treatment, etc., where risk of harm

30 (1) No person, other than a member treating or advising within the scope of practice of his or her profession, shall treat or advise a person with respect to his or her health in circumstances in which it is reasonably foreseeable that serious bodily harm may result from the treatment or advice or from an omission from them. (specific, limited exemptions are referenced in section 30 of the *RHPA*).

Offences

- 40 (1) Every person who contravenes subsection ... 30 (1) is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable,
- (a) for a first offence, to a fine of not more than \$25,000, or to imprisonment for a term of not more than one year, or both; and
 - (b) for a second or subsequent offence, to a fine of not more than \$50,000, or to imprisonment for a term of not more than one year, or both.

In addition to the legislative provisions outlined above, members are reminded that the following are acts of professional misconduct under Ontario Regulation 852/93 (Professional Misconduct):

2. Contravening a standard of practice of the profession or failing to maintain the standard of practice expected of members of the profession.
13. Failing to advise a patient to consult with another health professional when the member knows or ought to know that,
 - the patient's condition is beyond the scope of practice and competence for the member;
 - the patient requires the care of another health professional; or
 - the patient would be appropriately treated by another health professional.