

# COMMUNIQUÉ

September 2010

## SPINAL DECOMPRESSION

Spinal decompression is a form of traction used by chiropractors, physicians, physiotherapists and other regulated health care professionals to correct joint dysfunctions and relieve pain. Decompression tables are among many modalities a chiropractor may choose to use in his/her practice.

On May 5, 2010, Health Canada suspended the licence for sale of the Axiom DRX-9000 spinal decompression machine in Canada. CCO investigated the reasons for the suspension of this device with Health Canada. Information provided to regulators indicated that “no device incidents” were reported and it was the failure to provide evidence on the success rate of pain reduction that caused the license to be suspended.

At this time, chiropractors in Ontario are permitted to use the Axiom DRX-9000. Any complaint about chiropractors using the machine will involve the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee considering whether the chiropractor complied with the relevant legislation and standards of practice in place, including:

- S-013: Consent, which outlines the requirements of obtaining informed consent
- S-016: Advertising, which requires advertisements to be accurate, factual and verifiable, and not contain anything false or misleading or a guarantee of success of care
- S-010: Techniques, Technologies, Devices or Procedures (TTDPs), which has specific requirements on the use of any TTDP, including requirements relating to the consent for the use of any TTDP
- G-008: Business Practices, which has specific requirements relating to the way chiropractors may bill, including that the fees be for a treatment that is clinically necessary, be fair and reasonable, and be fully disclosed in advance of treatment.

CCO does not have the jurisdiction to place any restriction on the use of the DRX-9000. CCO has jurisdiction over members, and specifically, can enforce its standards of practice, policies and guidelines through the complaints and discipline processes. In addition, through the quality assurance program, and specifically the peer and practice assessment program, CCO reviews members' practices to ensure compliance with existing standards of practice.

*If you have any questions, please contact CCO directly.*



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