

## **PUTTING A FINGER BEYOND THE ANAL VERGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MANIPULATING THE TAILBONE**



**Standard of Practice S-007**  
**Quality Assurance Committee**  
**Approved by Council: February 28, 1998**  
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*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 of patients.
- To provide appropriate protocol for this procedure.

### **DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD**

#### **Overview**

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.

Performing a sacro-coccygeal adjustment requires appropriate training, skillset, and practice to develop competency. Competency in 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 care and adjustive techniques for coccygeal correction.

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### Consideration of Public Safety

To perform manipulative procedures of the sacro-coccygeal joint, a member shall have achieved and be able to demonstrate clinical competency 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;
- the member's mindfulness of the patient's reaction to this procedure.

### Informed Consent

Members shall fully explain the diagnosis or clinical impression, care procedure and prognosis to the patient before proceeding with the manipulation of the tailbone.

Members are required to obtain patient consent, consistent with Standard of Practice S-013: Consent, prior to proceeding with the manipulation of the tailbone, that is:

- fully informed;
- voluntarily given;
- related to the patient's condition and circumstances;
- not obtained through fraud or misrepresentation; and
- evidenced in a written form signed by the patient or otherwise documented in the patient health record.

Performance of the controlled act of putting a finger beyond the anal verge for the purpose of manipulating the tailbone involves providing care in a sensitive area. Therefore, specific consideration shall be given to explaining the procedure to the patient, ensuring the patient fully understands the procedure, and considering any language or cultural barriers to care. See Guideline G-001: Communication with Patients for more information.

## LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

### Controlled Acts

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

subsection 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.”

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### **Authorized Acts**

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

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.

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