

# Clinical Practice Standard

## Chiropractic Diagnostic Imaging





Principle	Outcome Statement
<b>As a chiropractic licensee, you must meet the following Principles within the Clinical Practice Standard: Chiropractic Diagnostic Imaging</b>	<b>People receiving health services from a chiropractic licensee expect that their health care practitioner will:</b>
<b>Principle 1:</b> Chiropractic licensees must apply or authorize diagnostic imaging only when clinically indicated.	Only apply or authorize diagnostic imaging when it is clinically necessary.
<b>Principle 2:</b> Chiropractic licensees must ensure informed consent for the application or authorization of diagnostic imaging is obtained and proper documentation recorded within the patient's health care record.	Ensure that their patients are informed about the purpose of diagnostic imaging and consent is obtained before the procedure, with all findings accurately documented in their health care record.
<b>Principle 3:</b> Chiropractic licensees must ensure X-ray equipment that is owned or operated is in compliance with radiation safety legislation, standards and requirements.	Ensure that any X-ray equipment owned or operated by them meets all radiation safety standards.



## Definitions

**evidence-based practice:** an approach to professional practice that involves the integration of research evidence specific to the condition being treated or approach to treatment; practice context, including a licensee's scope of practice; patient's values and circumstances; and clinical expertise.

**radiology report:** a radiology report consists of, but is not limited to: patient information, the date radiographs were taken, the examination series and views, a description of the radiographic features (usually in order of importance or anatomical sequence), a radiologic impression, a radiologic differential diagnosis (in order of importance), and recommendations for further studies or additional specific views.

**repeat x-ray:** refers to taking a new image of an area that has already been x-rayed.

**routine x-ray:** a standard, non-emergent imaging study used for screening or monitoring a condition as part of regular care.



## **Principle 1:** Chiropractic licensees must apply or authorize diagnostic imaging only when clinically indicated.

---

To meet this standard, chiropractic licensees must:

- 1.1** When applying x-rays to a patient, or providing an authorization or instructions for another person to apply x-rays to a patient, including x-ray for the purpose of computerized axial tomography,
- 1.2** or electromagnetism for the purpose of magnetic resonance imaging, licensees have determined, using an evidence-based practice approach, that diagnostic imaging is clinically indicated.
- 1.3** Take all reasonable steps to obtain and utilize imaging or reports that would remove the need to apply x-rays.
- 1.4** Not apply initial, routine or repeat x-rays without clinical indication.

## **Principle 2:** Chiropractic licensees must ensure informed consent for the application or authorization of diagnostic imaging is obtained and proper documentation is recorded within the patient's health care record.

---

To meet this standard, chiropractic licensees must:

- 2.1** Before applying x-rays, or issuing an authorization:
  - 2.1.1** explain the purpose of applying x-rays, expected benefits, potential risks, and engage in shared decision making with the patient
  - 2.1.2** obtain and document informed consent
  - 2.1.3** document the clinical indication for x-rays in the health care records.



**2.2** After applying x-rays, or issuing an authorization:

- 2.2.1** inform the patient of the imaging results and clinical impression, explaining how the results affect the diagnosis and treatment plan.
- 2.2.2** ensure the health care record contains a dated radiology report and the imaging study or a copy of it, where applicable,
- 2.2.3** obtain a written radiology report from a qualified health professional for CT and MRI studies.

**Principle 3:** Chiropractic licensees must ensure X-ray equipment that is owned or operated is in compliance with radiation safety legislation, standards and requirements.

---

To meet this standard, chiropractic licensees who own or operate X-ray equipment must:

- 3.1** Comply with all radiation safety legislation, standards, and requirements,
  - 3.1.1** Ensure proof of compliance is:
    - 3.1.1.1** provided to CCHPBC, and
    - 3.1.1.2** displayed on or near the equipment.
  - 3.1.2** stay up to date with best practices on radiation exposure.