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Informed Consent

When a patient seeks Chiropractic health care and we accept a patient for such care, it is essential for both to be working towards the same objective.

Chiropractic's goal: to eliminate misalignments within the spinal column that interfere with the body's natural ability to self-heal. It is important that each patient understand both the objective and the method that will be used to attain our goal. This will prevent any confusion or disappointment.

Vertebral subluxation: a misalignment of one or more of the 24 vertebrae in the spinal column which causes alteration of nerve function and decreases the transmission of brain signals to the body, resulting in a lessening of the body's innate ability to express its maximum health potential.

Adjustment: the specific application of force to facilitate the body's correction of vertebral subluxation. Our chiropractic method of correction is specific adjustments of the spine.

Doctors of Chiropractic, who use manual therapy techniques such as spinal adjustments, are required to advise patients that there are or may be some risks associated with such treatment.

In particular you should note: There have been alleged cases of injury to a vertebral artery following cervical spinal adjustments. Vertebral artery injuries have been known to cause stroke, sometimes with serious neurological impairment, and may on rare occasion result in serious injury. The possibility of such injuries resulting from cervical spinal adjustment is extremely remote.

HOW SAFE IS SAFE?

A recent study in the Journal of the Canadian Medical Association (Oct.2001) found the risk of a dissection in a vertebral artery from Chiropractic neck adjustment is only 1 in 5.85 million, infinitesimal. Relatively, how safe is this?

Ulcer from Naproxen drugs	190,000 per million
Life threat from spinal stenosis surgery	50,000 per million
Death from low back surgery	3,000 per million
Death from stroke caused by 1 aspirin/day	7,000 per million
Death caused by anti inflammatory drugs	400 per million
Death from a fall at home	90 per million
Death from treadmill exercise testing	50 per million
Pedestrian being hit by a car	15 per million
Being struck by lightning	5 per million
Being killed by lightning strike	1.5 per million
Stroke from Chiropractic adjustment	less than 1 per million
Serious reaction from a child's adjustment	0.004 per million

I acknowledge I have discussed, or have had the opportunity to discuss, with my Chiropractor the nature and purpose of Chiropractic treatment in particular (including spinal adjustment as well as the contents of this Informed Consent).

I consent to the Chiropractic treatment offered or recommended to me by my Chiropractor, including spinal adjustments. I intend that this consent apply to all my present and future chiropractic care.

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____