



CHIROPRACTIC ARTS CENTER OF AUSTIN, P.C.

Michele K. Gerard, D. C.
4131 Spicewood Springs Rd., #L-3
Austin, TX 78759

(512) 346-3536

Fax 346-5036

www.cacaustin.com

Consent to Chiropractic Care

Health care providers are required to advise patients of the nature of the care to be provided, including the risks, benefits and any alternatives to care. Please read this entire document prior to signing in. It is important that you understand the information contained in this document. Please ask questions before you sign if there is anything that is unclear.

The Nature of Chiropractic Care: The primary method of care utilized by doctors of chiropractic is spinal manipulative therapy, also called a chiropractic adjustment, chiropractic manipulation, manual manipulation or spinal manipulation. The objective of the chiropractic adjustment is to reduce the subluxation, with the goal of increasing range of motion, reducing nerve irritability and improving function. The chiropractic adjustment is delivered by hands or an instrument called an Activator to the vertebrae. The adjustment may cause an audible sound, called cavitation, and is similar to what you may experience when you “crack” your knuckles. Cavitation is the release of gases within the membranes and is normal, but does not always occur. This causes no damage to the spine whatsoever.

Prior to determining if and what kind of chiropractic adjustment is needed an examination will be necessary. This examination may include palpation, vital signs, range of motion testing, orthopedic testing, basic neurological testing, muscle strength testing, postural analysis, and radiographic studies.

Possible Risks: As with any healthcare procedure, there are certain complications which may arise. These complications include but are not limited to: fractures, disc injuries, dislocations, muscle strain, cervical myelopathy, costovertebral strains and separations, and burns. Some types of adjustments of the neck have been associated with injuries to the arteries in the neck leading to or contributing to serious complications including stroke. The most common reaction to a chiropractic adjustment is aching or soreness in the spinal joints or muscles. The doctor will make every reasonable effort during the consultation and examination to screen for contraindications to care; however, if you have a condition that would otherwise not come to the doctor’s attention, it is your responsibility to inform the doctor.

Probability of Risks Occurring: Fractures are rare occurrences and generally result from some underlying weakness of the bone. We evaluate you for any possible weakness for during the consultation, examination, and x-rays. Stroke and/or arterial dissection caused by chiropractic adjustments of the neck has been the subject of ongoing medical research and debate. The most current research is inconclusive as to a specific incident of this complication occurring. If there is a causal relationship at all, it is extremely rare and remote. Unfortunately, there is no recognized screening procedure to identify patients with neck pain who are at risk for arterial stroke.

Other Treatment Options: Other treatment options may include self-administered, over-the-counter analgesics; rest; medical care including physical therapy, prescription drugs, injections, hospitalization or surgery. Should you choose any of the above options, you should be aware there are risks and benefits of such options and you may wish to discuss these with your primary care physician. We commit to inform you of other treatment options that may benefit you in conjunction with, or instead of, chiropractic care and refer you to the appropriate provider.

Risks of Not Obtaining Care: Not seeking care may allow for the formation of adhesions, scar tissue and other degenerative changes. These changes can further reduce skeletal mobility, and include chronic pain cycles. It is quite probable that delay of care will complicate and make future care more difficult.

No Warranty and Limitations: We do not offer to diagnose or treat any diseases or conditions other than vertebral subluxation. If during the course of a chiropractic examination we encounter non-chiropractic or unusual findings, we will advise you. If you desire advice, diagnosis or treatment for those findings, we will recommend that you seek the services of a health care provider who specialized in that area. Regardless of what the disease is called, we do not offer to treat it. Nor do we offer advice regarding treatment prescribed by others. We cannot make any promises or guarantees regarding a cure for or improvement in your condition. We will share with you our professional experience and opinion regarding potential results from chiropractic care and discuss care options before you consent to care.