

Chiropractic Nomenclature Developed through Consensus

Chiropractic nomenclature has been developed through agreement obtained by a rigorous process using both nominal and Delphi consensus methods¹⁴. Moving through increasingly complex stages agreement was reached on the following ten terms used to discuss chiropractic science.:

Articular functional units.

- Motion segment-A functional unit made up of the two adjacent articulating surfaces and the connecting tissues binding them to each other.
- Spinal motion segment- Two adjacent vertebrae, and the connecting tissues binding them to each other.

The lesion treated by chiropractors.

- Subluxation-A motion segment, in which alignment, movement integrity and/or physiological function are altered although contact between joint surfaces remains intact.
- Manipulable (chiropractic) subluxation-A subluxation in which alignment, movement integrity and/or function can be improved by manual thrust procedures.
- Subluxation complex-A theoretical model of motion segment dysfunction (subluxation) which incorporates the complex interaction of pathological changes in nerve, muscle, ligamentous, vascular and connective tissues.
- Subluxation syndrome-An aggregate of signs and symptoms that relate to pathophysiology or dysfunction of motion segments.

Treatment procedures utilized by chiropractors.

- Adjustment-Any chiropractic therapeutic procedure that utilizes controlled force, leverage, direction, amplitude, and velocity which is directed at specific joints or anatomical regions. Chiropractors commonly use such procedures to influence joint and neurophysiological function.
- Manual therapy-Procedures by which the hands directly contact the body to treat the articulations and/or soft tissues.
- Manipulation-A manual procedure that involves a directed thrust to move a joint past the physiological range of motion, without exceeding the anatomical limit
- Mobilization-Movement applied singularly or repetitively within or at the physiological range of joint movement, without imparting a thrust or impulse, with the goal of restoring joint mobility.