

Objective

The primary objective of this patient-centered, evidence-based document is to provide an educational tool to assist chiropractic physicians and their patients in making decisions about appropriate chiropractic health care for better patient outcomes. The strength of this document is that it is patient-centered, supported by the best available evidence and not solely condition based.

Further this document is profession-initiated with broad representation by Oregon licentiates in the development process. Extensive grassroots support facilitates the educational process and promotes implementation. Patient-centered, evidence-based objectives put the interest of the patient first, based on the best available evidence. Individual differences mandate that what may be good for a typical patient may not be good for the individual patient requiring flexibility in interpretation. Consensus based standards of quality derived from high level evidence, provides a basis for peer review criteria, to assist the profession in decision making based on predetermined elements of care against which aspects of individual chiropractic care can be compared. Perfect decisions about optimum care are not possible since the process of analyzing evidence and opinion is imperfect. Nevertheless the potential benefits from patient-centered, evidence-based objectives are protection of patients, reduction in practice variation, quality assurance, and improved risk management.