

## **INITIAL EXAMINATION AND EVALUATION**

Date adopted: October 25, 2019

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It is the position of the Board that in evaluating a new patient to determine whether the patient would benefit from chiropractic care, the licensee should perform a thorough examination. The examination should include a consultation to ascertain history, take vital statistics and such relevant orthopedic, neurological and chiropractic tests as are necessary to establish the extent and severity of the injury or condition. If the patient demonstrates a positive history and clinical findings, diagnostic imaging or other investigatory studies may be indicated to rule out pathology and determine the best method of care.

It is the position of the Board that after the examination is complete, if the licensee determines that chiropractic care is justified and accepts the patient, he should formulate a working diagnosis and develop a treatment plan. If the licensee determines that the patient's needs are better addressed by a different healthcare professional, the patient should be referred to the appropriate category of healthcare provider.

It is the position of the Board that the patient should be assessed for complicating factors such as family history, skeletal anomaly, pathology, work environment, home environment, age, obesity, previous episodes and other pertinent considerations. The presence of complicating factors will affect the design and duration of the treatment plan and the patient's prognosis and should be noted in the patient record\*.

***\*Also See Patient Record Standards.***