

**The Board of Chiropractic Examiners has established this “Newsflash” page as a means to keep the public and the profession apprised of current circumstances that may impact licensed Arizona doctors of chiropractic, consumers of chiropractic care and the general public. Please use this page to read up on current news regarding the practice of chiropractic in Arizona, regulatory issues or concerns, directions on how to find the resources to differentiate rumor from fact, and the Board’s response to false or misleading information that may be disseminated.**

Current as of December 10, 2007.

### **Rulemaking Update:**

Amendments to R4-7-1102, Chiropractic Assistant Training, and R4-7-1103, Scope of Practice, were unanimously passed by the Governor’s Regulatory Review Counsel on December 4, 2007. The rule amendments become effective 60 days following the filing of Notice of Final Rulemaking with the Office of the Secretary of State and will be published on this website. The rule amendments are anticipated to take effect on February 4, 2008. The rule amendments include the following;

- The number of hours of training in acupuncture that a chiropractic assistant is required to complete, if supervised by a doctor of chiropractic who is certified in acupuncture, is reduced to two hours.
- The supervising doctor of chiropractic is required to notify the Board when a chiropractic assistant is hired, within seven days of hire. The notice must be in writing. The information that needs to be provided is limited to the chiropractic assistant’s full name, the name and license number of the supervising doctor of chiropractic, the address and phone number where the chiropractic assistant will be employed and the initial date of hire. The notice can be sent to the Board by fax to (602) 864-5099 or by mail to The Arizona Board of Chiropractic Examiners, 5060 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave, #416, Phoenix, AZ 85015.
- Clinical duties of a chiropractic assistant are addressed. A chiropractic assistant is not limited to those duties that are listed. The duties that appear in the rule are a point of reference and do not restrict a chiropractic assistant from performing duties authorized by statute.
- Physiotherapy that may be provided by a chiropractic assistant under the supervision of a licensed doctor of chiropractic who is certified in physiotherapy is addressed. A chiropractic assistant is not limited to those duties that are listed. The duties that appear in the rule are a point of reference and do not restrict a chiropractic assistant from performing duties authorized by statute.
- Duties specific to acupuncture that may be provided by a chiropractic assistant under the supervision of a licensed doctor of chiropractic who is certified in acupuncture are addressed. A chiropractic assistant is not limited to those duties that are listed. The duties that appear in the Rule are a point of reference and do not restrict a chiropractic assistant from performing duties authorized by statute.
- Services or duties that cannot be performed by a chiropractic assistant are listed.

- A person who has had a license revoked, has a license that is suspended or who has had a license denied for any reason other than failing to meet education or licensing requirements in this or any other jurisdiction shall not perform the clinical duties of a chiropractic assistant.
- As per statute, a chiropractic assistant shall not be licensed to practice chiropractic in this or any other jurisdiction.

The rule amendments **do not** restrict a chiropractic assistant from administering physiotherapy treatments under current law.

The rule amendments **do not** restrict a chiropractic assistant from assisting with examinations or diagnostic testing under current law.

The rule amendments **do not** provide a basis for insurance carriers to deny payment for services administered or performed by a chiropractic assistant.

The Board did add language to the final rule amendment which more clearly established that chiropractic assistants are not limited to the procedures listed in the rule. The Board recognizes that the addition of that language has been well received. The Board would like to acknowledge that the addition of language, but not limited to, was in response to input provided by the Arizona Association of Chiropractic.

If you hear of, or read, any claims that the rule amendments restrict the activities of chiropractic assistants beyond current law or provide a basis for insurance companies to deny payment of services performed by chiropractic assistants, the claims are not based in fact. The rule amendments have been reviewed by the Assistant Attorney General and analyzed by the legal and accounting staff of the Governors Regulatory Review Council. The rule amendments were then reviewed by the members of the Governor's Regulatory Review Council prior to becoming final.

When you hear rumors, please keep in mind that three of the five members of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners are practicing doctors of chiropractic who own and operate chiropractic clinics and who make their living by providing chiropractic care to patients. Any harm to the profession is equivalent harm to the private practices of those Board members.