
IMMUNIZATION



Draft # 1

Standard of Practice S-015

Executive and Quality Assurance Committees

Policy P-033: Information on Immunization approved by Council: November 16, 1996 and amended April 15, 2000

Distributed for feedback: September 2003

Note to Readers: In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the legislation that affects chiropractic practice, the legislation governs.

INTENT

The purposes of the standard of practice are:

- to ensure the public is aware that immunization is outside the scope of practice of chiropractic and chiropractors do not have the legislative authority to immunize patients; and
- to ensure that chiropractors advise patients to consult health providers who are qualified to fully inform patients with regard to immunization.

DESCRIPTION OF STANDARD

The College of Chiropractors of Ontario (“CCO”) accepts vaccination as a cost-effective and clinically efficient public health preventative procedure for certain viral and microbial diseases as demonstrated by the scientific community.

Chiropractors may express personal views about immunization/vaccination, but may not, in their professional capacity, express views about immunization/vaccination as it is outside their area of professional expertise.

In responding to requests from patients and members of the public regarding immunization, members shall:

1. advise that immunization is outside the scope of practice of chiropractic and chiropractors do not have the legislative authority to immunize patients; and
2. advise patients to consult with health providers who are qualified to fully inform patients with regard to immunization.

For the purposes of this standard of practice, CCO takes the position that physicians and nurse practitioners are qualified health providers with respect to immunization procedures.

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Section 3 (1) of the Health Professions Procedural Code – One of CCO’s objects under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (“RHPA”) is to “develop, establish and maintain programs and standards of practice to assure the quality of the practice of the profession.”

The Professional Misconduct Regulation under the *Chiropractic Act, 1991*, includes the following as an act of professional misconduct:

The Practice of the Profession and the Care of and Relationship with Patients

Section 2: Contravening a standard of practice of the profession or failing to maintain the standard of practice expected of members of the profession.

Section 13: Failing to advise a patient to consult with another health professional when the member knows or ought to know that,

- the patient’s condition is beyond the scope of practice and competence for the member,
- the patient requires the care of another health professional, or
- the patient would be most appropriately treated by another health professional.

Miscellaneous Matters

Section 29: Contravening a federal, provincial or territorial law [which includes the *Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990*] ... if the contravention is relevant to the member’s suitability to practice.

Section 33: Engaging in conduct or performing an act that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional.