

Case Management for Straight Chiropractors

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2nd edition, 1994
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Chiropractic Education
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CHAPTER 1

The Uniqueness of Case Management *for Straight Chiropractors*

The evolution of chiropractic, especially that of straight chiropractic, has discouraged the writing of a book on case management (TSC – OSC). Until the 1970's, diagnosis was not even an issue among chiropractors. It was the norm for chiropractors to correct vertebral subluxation only and the treatment of disease was rarely the objective of the chiropractor. However, the entire profession has changed drastically over the years. We are now in the post-B.J. chiropractic era. It is not as simple to practice chiropractic as it was then. People were not as knowledgeable in health matters as they are now. Medical care was not as well known, nor was it practiced with the sophistication and technology that it now is. People were more trusting. Chiropractors did not have to think about inconsistencies especially ones that might lead to lawsuits. Chiropractors could relate DIS-EASE to disease, and talk about getting sick people well. They did not have to think about how taking a practice member's blood pressure undermined their understanding of chiropractic. It was a simple time. Medicine did not help people, chiropractic did. That was basically all the public needed to know. If they did not get well they figured it was not meant to be, rather than it was the fault of the doctor. The "medicalization" of chiropractic has changed that; the increase in malpractice suits, again virtually unheard of twenty-five years ago, has changed the way chiropractors practice, their standard of care, and ultimately their case management. These factors impinge upon how a straight chiropractor handles a practice member, that they have made the writing of this type of book extremely difficult.

At the time of the writing of this text, to the author's knowledge, there is no course taught at any straight chiropractic college which explains case management for straight chiropractors. Consequently, most students, when getting into practice, do the things they were taught to do if they were practicing as a "safe," non-straight chiropractor. Non-straight case management is one that is essentially built upon fear. Mixer chiropractors do have to be afraid. They are treating medical conditions in a limited manner. They do not have the diagnostic skills, the equipment nor the treatments at their disposal to adequately treat disease. They are treating disease, ill-equipped. That would produce fear in anyone. The straight chiropractor is not treating disease so he does not need to practice in a fearful manner. Sadly, malpractice prevention is one of the most important aspects of chiropractic case management. The chiropractic profession will never begin to find its way out of the malpractice maze until it completely disassociates itself from the treatment of medical conditions. Most malpractice problems are as a result of failure to diagnose properly and/or properly treat a medical condition. Straight chiropractic case management is determining chiropractic findings, and communicating to and addressing those findings in a practice member who walks into a chiropractic office. It is not making a chiropractic case out of a medical condition.

This text is by far not the definitive work on the subject, but it is a starting point for every straight chiropractor because it is based upon the philosophy. In addition to the philosophy, there are other factors that will affect straight chiropractic case management. The laws of the state are clearly important. The straight chiropractor is obligated to practice under the laws of his state, which are the same laws as that of the mixer