6 April, 2010

Dear Dr Donato,

I'd like to comment on the proposed national board codes and guidelines for Chiropractors.

Recently I had an experience I'd like to share with you. I had a squamous cell carcinoma diagnosed last year. At age 38, this is a concern, it was removed, but another pharmacological product, namely Aldara cream, was prescribed to prevent any other sun damage I had forming more carcinomas. At this scary prospect, I immediately began treatment without looking into the effects of the prescribed cream. Instead, I just completely trusted my medical doctor that it was the right thing to do. On the third week, I managed to download the manufacturers' prescription information, not supplied by my medico. On it was the results of the companies own carcinogenic studies – and they reported '**a statistically significant increase in the incidence of liver adenomas and carcinomas**'. I was appalled to see that, firstly, as a primary health professional, I had not researched this before starting treatment, but mostly due to the fact that a topical cream, designed to **reduce** my incidence of developing further carcinomas, **was in fact, carcinogenic**! [(1)] And that was by the manufacturers own research.

I am trying to illustrate the contrast between this approach to 'health care' – that approach in which the majority of society use - and our chiropractic approach. As safe as chiropractic has been proven to be, I am required to go through a consent form with every person I adjust. I am dutifully bound by my principles and ethics to educate my patients as to what our approach encompasses, so people can make their own informed decisions. This is in stark contrast to my above medical experience.

Chiropractic educates people that health is not beyond them. That their past lifestyle choices have got them to where they are today. That their present and future decisions will determine, in the overwhelming majority of cases, their future level of health.

Chiropractic gives people hope that they won't be a victim of the 'medical merry-go-round'. Chiropractic offers a solution to reducing the current medical crisis in this country.

Thank god we have a great level of dedicated emergency medical staff in this country. Without them we would be lost. Unfortunately, the lines between 'health care' and 'sickness care' have been blurred.

People of this country need to be educated that prevention is better than a cure. That once you have the gift of health, you must work to retain it. This involves living a healthy lifestyle, eating correctly, exercising daily and maintaining optimal function of your spine and nervous system. Facts proven time and time again.

With reference to National Registration proposed Codes and Guidelines, I object to being restricted in

- how we may promote our profession with testimonials,
- the use of xrays in practice for 'red flags' (pathology) only,

- the use of diagnostic tools for promotion,
- providing regular check-ups for children in the absence of symptoms or signs,
- 'screening' for health problems,
- having to justify ongoing care,
- making contact with participants before making an assessment,
- handing out our business cards unless requested,
- the ability to decide whether or not chiropractors should be immunised against communicable diseases
- the use of the honourary title of Doctor for chiropractors nationally. I do, however, think that the title should include an addition "(Chiropractor)"

Finally, the general tone of the draft chiropractic guidelines is demeaning to the profession and oppressive. It appears to assume poor conduct by chiropractors.

Thank you to the CAA National and Local for providing a platform in which we can represent ourselves as a profession.

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(1) http://www.aldara.com/pdfs/aldara_ppi.pdf section 13.1