Objection to national Guidelines

Helen French to natboards 07/04/2010 03:01 PM

To whom it may concern,

I wish to object to certain aspects of the proposed National Guidelines which I believe are not in the interests of the chiropractic profession.
In particular, the following points....

> 1. "frequent chiropractic checks or treatment of children without symptoms or signs has not been supported by current available evidence and is currently not recommended..." 2.10.7

Chiropractic, as far as I am concerned, is a proactive approach to health care. The mainstream medical approach to "healthcare" is to wait until you lose your health and then react to the symptomatology that one's body starts to complain with. Traditional chiropractic philosophy is strongly focused on prevention. The average child out there isn't that healthy these days. A health professional that can promote a wellness approach to life is what society is lacking. Keep our kids healthier in the first place. Chiropractors are well placed to be Health Life coaches. Even if it's purely as a screen for the detection of scoliosis, having spines assessed regularly is not a wasted effort. A big percentage of the public is disillusioned with modern medicine and choose to include chiropractic as a part of their family's wellness lifestyle. I believe that the choice to bring their children to a chiropractor for spinal assessment is the right of any parent, be the child symptomatic or not.

> 2. "practitioners ensure that all staff have undertaken a basic training course in suicide intervention skills or appropriate interventions for the particular type of risk" 5.2.1

Why?

3. "The need for X-rays is supported in cases where "red flags" (suspected pathology) are elicited from the clinical history and examination" 2.6.2

Anyone who has been in practice for a few years would attest to the usefulness of xrays in ruling out even unsuspected pathology. I have come across a couple of spinal tumours in people that I hadn't suspected them in. One was even remote from the area of complaint. Also, the number of young adults that have significant spinal degeneration whilst lacking in overt symptoms, continues to surprise me when dealing with new patients. This is information that must be made available when considering appropriate management of a patient.

I trust that the board will consider these objections and act in the best interest of the public and the chiropractic profession.

Regards,

Helen French