Submission on AHPRA Consultation paper

Gabriel Parker to natboards

History: This message has been replied to.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to raise some concerns I have over some of the practice specific guidelines in the Code of Professional practice for Chiropractors in Australia.

1. Section 1.6.7 Fees States;

"Financial and management plans should not extend beyond 3 months at any time".

I believe that there should be a clause regarding ongoing maintenance/wellbeing care where a patient, having been given all the facts/evidence regarding preventative care, elects to continue care (when non symptomatic) on an ongoing basis for general health benefits such as increased movement, reduced stiffness, postural care etc. Many chiropractic patients enjoy the benefits of "maintenance care" in the absence of the symptoms for which they inoitially presented and this clause may preclude practitioners fom undertaking such care. Of course this would not exempt the chiropractor from undertaking regular rewiews of the patient for changes and new problems and informed consent forms/notes would reflect the patients consent for such care.

2. Section 2.6.4 states
"Routine X-ray screening of consumers including the routine re-evaluation of biomechanical/postural disorders, other than for progressive scoliosis or other exceptional circumstance, may be inappropriate. Follow-up X-rays are not indicated if the health consumer is making adequate clinical

recovery except in cases of progressive pathology,

fracture repair and progressive scoliosis."

I think that follow up x-rays should be allowed if a chiropractor believes it will influence their clinical decision making and management of a patient even if the xray is for postural analysis, however this should only be if the practitioner is using evidence based practice for example Clinical Biomechanics of Posture (CBP®) protocols. The practitioner should also be registered as a trained practioner in that particular field e.g. CBP.

3. Section 2.10.6 States

"Special consideration must be given to

chiropractic management of neonates as

examination and treatment of this group may be

complex and may require advanced diagnostic

skills, assessment and training."

Does this paragraph mean that general practice chiropractors should not care for neonates? I think that the board needs to be clearer on this issue. I believe that chiropractors should be allowed to see neonates for musculoskeletal care but that if the problem is beyond their scope of training that they should refer to someone with further training (e.g. minimum standard of Masters in Chiropractic Paediatrics).

Thank you for your consideration,

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