

## **Informed Consent to Chiropractic Treatment**

The State of Wisconsin requires every patient to be informed of the risks of treatment and the alternatives to treatments prior to the beginning of care. The following is Hammer Chiropractic, LLC's informed consent for treatment. We intend this consent form to cover the entire course of treatment for your present condition and for any conditions for which you seek treatment at this clinic.

**The nature of chiropractic treatment.** The doctor will use his/her hands or a mechanical device in order to adjust/manipulate your joints. You may hear a "click" or "pop", similar to when a knuckle is "cracked" and you may feel movement of the joint. Various ancillary procedures, such as a hot or cold packs, electric muscle stimulation, therapeutic ultrasound, traction as well as exercise instruction may also be used.

**Possible risks and probability.** There are inherent risks in my and all treatment derived by any health care provider ranging from taking a single aspirin to a complicated brain surgery. Chiropractic care is no exception. Although we take every precaution, there are indeed some slight risks to chiropractic adjustments/manipulations. The risk is very minor to non-existent in any treatment of the extremities. The risks involved in treatment to the spine excluding the neck are several. A list from the least to the most serious would include muscular strain (rare), ligamentous sprain (rare), fractures (rare), and injury to the intervertebral discs, nerves, or spinal cord (very rare). The risk involved in the treatment of the neck would include any of the preceding list but also include the remote possibility of cerebrovascular injury, or stroke (very rare: incident rate is one in ten million). A minority of patients may notice a stiffness or soreness after the first few days of treatment (common). The ancillary physical therapy procedures could produce skin irritations, burns or other minor complications (rare).

**Other treatment options, not provided by this clinic, which could be considered, may include the following:**

Over-the-counter analgesics. The risks of these medications include irritations to the stomach, liver and kidneys and other side effects in a significant number of cases.

Medical care, typically anti-inflammatory drugs, tranquilizers and analgesics. Risks of these drugs include numerous undesirable effects, usually more serious than those listed above and patient dependence in a significant number of cases.

Surgery in conjunction with medical care adds the risks of adverse reactions to anesthesia (which include death), as well as extended convalescent period in a significant number of cases.

**Risks of remaining untreated.** Delay of treatment allows formation of adhesions, scar tissue and other degenerative changes. These changes can further reduce skeletal mobility and include chronic pain cycles. It is quite probable the delay of treatment will complicate the condition, and make further rehabilitation more difficult.

**Concerns or questions.** Please ask your Doctor of Chiropractic. Dr. Hammer and the staff at Hammer Chiropractic have gone to great lengths to make your health and safety a top priority. Dr. Hammer will be glad to explain any concerns about treatment you may have. Suffice to say we will only recommend treatment for you that we would feel comfortable having performed on ourselves.

I have read the above explanation of chiropractic care. I also had the opportunity to ask questions and have them answered to my satisfaction. I have fully evaluated the risks and benefits of undergoing treatment. I have freely decided to undergo the recommended treatment, and hereby give my full consent to treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date