

Note: This statement was revised three months after it was issued. The revision is on page 2 of this document.

**General
Chiropractic
Council**



Protecting patients
Setting standards

GUIDANCE ON CLAIMS MADE FOR THE CHIROPRACTIC VERTEBRAL SUBLUXATION COMPLEX

The chiropractic vertebral subluxation complex is an historical concept but it remains a theoretical model. It is not supported by any clinical research evidence that would allow claims to be made that it is the cause of disease or health concerns.

Chiropractors are reminded that

- they must make sure their own beliefs and values do not prejudice the patients' care (GCC Code of Practice section A3)
- they must provide evidence based care, which is clinical practice that incorporates the best available evidence from research, the preferences of the patient and the expertise of practitioners, including the individual chiropractor her/himself (GCC Standard of Proficiency section A2.3 and the glossary)
- any advertised claims for chiropractic care must be based only on best research of the highest standard (GCC Guidance on Advertising issued March 2010)

May 2010

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Guidance on claims made for the chiropractic vertebral subluxation complex

The chiropractic vertebral subluxation complex is an historical concept but it remains a theoretical model. It is not supported by any clinical research evidence that would allow claims to be made that it is the cause of disease.

Chiropractors are reminded that:

- when ***practising***, the care they “select and provide must be informed by the best available evidence, the preferences of the patient and the expertise of practitioners...”
(GCC Code of Practice and Standard of Proficiency: effective 30 June 2010; section S3.2)
- when ***advertising***, claims for chiropractic care “...must be based on best research of the highest standard” only.
(GCC Guidance on Advertising, March 2010)

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