

Title 113 WAC

CHIROPRACTIC DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Chapters	
113-10	Chiropractic disciplinary board code of ethics.
113-12	Board rules—Generally.

Chapter 113-10 WAC

CHIROPRACTIC DISCIPLINARY BOARD CODE OF ETHICS

WAC	
113-10-010	Privileged communications.
113-10-020	Patient abandonment.
113-10-030	Consultation.
113-10-040	Unethical requests.
113-10-050	Patient welfare.
113-10-060	Patient disclosure.
113-10-070	Degree of skill.
113-10-080	Educational material.
113-10-090	Illegal practitioners.
113-10-100	Excessive professional charges.
113-10-110	Disparaging other practitioners.

WAC 113-10-010 Privileged communications. A chiropractor shall not, without the consent of the patient, reveal any information acquired in attending such patient, which was necessary to enable the chiropractor to treat the patient: *Provided*, That this shall not apply to the release of information in an official proceeding where the release of information may be compelled by law. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-010, filed 12/31/75.]

WAC 113-10-020 Patient abandonment. The chiropractor shall always be free to accept or reject a particular patient, bearing in mind that whenever possible a chiropractor should respond to any reasonable request for his services in the interest of public health and welfare. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-020, filed 12/31/75.]

WAC 113-10-030 Consultation. In difficult or protracted cases consultations are advisable, and the chiropractor should be ready to act upon any desire the patient may express for a consultation, even though the chiropractor may not personally feel the need for it. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-030, filed 12/31/75.]

WAC 113-10-040 Unethical requests. A chiropractor shall not assist in any immoral practice such as aiding in the pretense of disability in order to avoid jury or military duty, or the concealment of physical disability in order to secure favorable insurance. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-040, filed 12/31/75.]

WAC 113-10-050 Patient welfare. The health and welfare of the patient shall always be paramount, and

expectation of remuneration or lack thereof shall not in any way affect the quality of service rendered the indigent patient. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-050, filed 12/31/75.]

WAC 113-10-060 Patient disclosure. Absolute honesty shall characterize all transactions with patients. The chiropractor should neither intentionally exaggerate nor minimize the gravity of the patient's condition, nor offer any false hope or prognosis. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-060, filed 12/31/75.]

WAC 113-10-070 Degree of skill. The chiropractor owes his or her patient(s) the highest degree of skill and care of which he or she is capable. To this end the chiropractor shall endeavor to keep abreast of new developments in chiropractic and shall constantly endeavor to improve his or her knowledge and skill in the science and art or philosophy of chiropractic, as defined in chapter 18.25 RCW. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-070, filed 12/31/75.]

WAC 113-10-080 Educational material. (1) Mailing or any distribution of educational material to the general public shall be prohibited.

(2) Direct mail to a doctor's own patient list containing educational material is permitted. At no time will patient educational material be flamboyant or showy, make promise of cure, free examination, free x-rays, free consultation, special techniques or methods, or imply superiority in any manner. Further, the patient educational material must not castigate or falsely impugn other health sciences or make claims that cannot be substantiated. The material should never contain statements of any kind that might be construed as false or misleading. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-080, filed 12/31/75.]

WAC 113-10-090 Illegal practitioners. Chiropractors should safeguard their profession by exposing those who might attempt to practice without proper credentials, and by reporting violations of the laws regulating chiropractic to the proper authorities. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-090, filed 12/31/75.]

WAC 113-10-100 Excessive professional charges. (1) A chiropractor shall not charge a patient fees which are unreasonable or excessive. The measure of value of chiropractic services is not the value to the patient but rather is the reasonable value of the services in the community where they are rendered by the chiropractor who rendered them.

(2) A chiropractor shall not prescribe nor perform any services which are not reasonably necessary in consideration of the patient's condition and shall furnish an explanation of charges for chiropractic services upon request of the board. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-100, filed 12/31/75.]

WAC 113-10-110 Disparaging other practitioners. No chiropractor shall falsely malign another practitioner or a practitioner's method of practice. [Order PL 235, § 113-10-110, filed 12/31/75.]

Chapter 113-12 WAC BOARD RULES—GENERALLY

WAC

113-12-010	Identification.
113-12-020	Telephone listings.
113-12-030	Display of identification.
113-12-045	Announcements.
113-12-050	Material for distribution.
113-12-065	Professional cards.
113-12-070	Representations as to free services.
113-12-080	Vitamins and food supplements.
113-12-090	Public relations advertising.
113-12-100	Billing.
113-12-115	Acupuncture.
113-12-120	Future care contracts prohibited.
113-12-130	Civic and charitable contribution recognition.

DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER

113-12-040	Announcements of office openings. [Order 8, § 113-12-040, filed 9/9/68.] Repealed by Order PL 235, filed 12/31/75. Later promulgation, see WAC 113-12-045.
113-12-060	Letterheads and cards. [Order 8, § 113-12-060, filed 9/9/68.] Repealed by Order PL 235, filed 12/31/75. Later promulgation, see WAC 113-12-065.
113-12-110	Prohibited practices. [Order PL-137, § 113-12-110, filed 11/13/72.] Repealed by Order PL 235, filed 12/31/75. Later promulgation, see WAC 113-12-115.

WAC 113-12-010 Identification. A chiropractor (1) must clearly identify himself as a chiropractor on his office signs.

(2) May identify his practice only by use of his name or by use of a geographic name which would clearly indicate the place of his practice. [Order PL-137, § 113-12-010, filed 11/13/72; Order 8, § 113-12-010, filed 9/9/68.]

WAC 113-12-020 Telephone listings. Telephone directory listings including more than the name, address, phone number, identification as a chiropractor and professional association as listed in the chiropractic act, or of such size that a charge is made for such listing in addition to the charge for business phone service, shall be considered as advertising by the chiropractor. [Order 15, § 113-12-020, filed 5/16/69; Order 8, § 113-12-020, filed 9/9/68.]

WAC 113-12-030 Display of identification. No chiropractor shall display or permit the continued display on any premise geographically separated from his office or in periodicals or newspapers, professional journals and

directories excluded, any card or sign identifying his chiropractic practice. [Order 8, § 113-12-030, filed 9/9/68.]

WAC 113-12-045 Announcements. (1) Newspaper announcements of office openings, change in location, or association of another chiropractor shall not exceed a maximum of two columns wide and three inches high. In addition to the description of the notice of the announcement, the announcement shall not contain any other information except that permitted on a professional card.

(2) No other announcements to the general public by newspaper or by any other form of mass communication shall be made, including announcements of change in office hours, or returns from vacation or educational leaves. [Order PL 235, § 113-12-045, filed 12/31/75. Formerly WAC 113-12-040.]

WAC 113-12-050 Material for distribution. No chiropractor shall distribute or mail or have distributed or mailed to the members of the general public material bearing information as to location or description of his chiropractic practice. [Order PL 235, § 113-12-050, filed 12/31/75; Order 8, § 113-12-050, filed 9/9/68.]

WAC 113-12-065 Professional cards. Professional cards shall not contain any material other than the name, address, office hours, telephone number, name of clinic if applicable, professional identification, and professional associations. [Order PL 235, § 113-12-065, filed 12/31/75. Formerly WAC 113-12-060.]

WAC 113-12-070 Representations as to free services. No chiropractor shall make any representation as to free x-rays or other services when the patient or his insurance carrier is charged for any services by the chiropractor. [Order PL 235, § 113-12-070, filed 12/31/75; Order 8, § 113-12-070, filed 9/9/68.]

WAC 113-12-080 Vitamins and food supplements. No chiropractor shall sell or dispense or permit to be sold or dispensed any vitamins or food supplements. [Order 8, § 113-12-080, filed 9/9/68.]

WAC 113-12-090 Public relations advertising. (1) Public relations advertising or program refers to advertising or programs which provide the public with information about chiropractic but do not promote any chiropractors individually.

(2) No public relations advertising or public relations program shall be considered as unprofessional conduct which has received prior endorsement of either the Washington Chiropractors Association, Inc. or the Chiropractic Society of Washington, and the final approval of the chiropractic disciplinary board. [Order PL 235, § 113-12-090, filed 12/31/75; Order PL-101, § 113-12-090, filed 10/5/70.]

WAC 113-12-100 Billing. A chiropractor who repeatedly bills separately for therapy procedures other than chiropractic shall be considered engaging in unprofessional conduct. The use of X-ray, examination or

consultation is not considered therapy. [Order PL-125, § 113-12-100, filed 6/2/72.]

WAC 113-12-115 Acupuncture. No chiropractor shall: (1) Employ the use of needles in the treatment of a patient; or

(2) Hold himself out as practicing acupuncture in any form. [Order PL 235, § 113-12-115, filed 12/31/75. Formerly WAC 113-12-110.]

WAC 113-12-120 Future care contracts prohibited. It shall be considered unprofessional conduct for any chiropractor to enter into a written contract with a patient for care to be rendered in the future. [Order PL-145, § 113-12-120, filed 6/6/73.]

WAC 113-12-130 Civic and charitable contribution recognition. A chiropractor shall be permitted to allow his or her name and the designation "D.C." to be included in a listing of individuals supporting civic or charitable activities or organizations. [Order PL 235, § 113-12-130, filed 12/31/75.]