

CHIROPRACTOR REFERRAL POLICY

Policy Statement

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta supports Alberta chiropractors referring their patients to accredited provincial imaging centers for general radiology. This policy outlines safe practices for these referrals.

General Principles

- Radiologists reserve the right to decline reporting chiropractor exams. In the event this should occur, every effort will be made to find another CAMIS radiologist for reporting.
- These exams will be clearly marked as being ordered by a chiropractor when sent to the radiologist for reporting.
- CAMIS reserves the right to refuse general x-ray imaging exams of the skull, chest and abdomen. All other general x-ray imaging requests will be accepted.
 - CAMIS will accept requests for ultrasound of the shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand, knee and ankle.
 - CAMIS will accept requests for MRI of the cervical spine, thoracic spine, lumbosacral spine, bony pelvis, shoulder and knee.
 - CAMIS will not accept requests for MRI related to solid organ pathology.
- All requests SHOULD include a copy to the patients' family doctor. Ultrasound and MRI requests MUST include a copy to the patients family doctor.
- Only routine general x-ray procedures as per the positioning manual will be performed.
- Chiropractor spinal x-ray views are normally requested in the upright position.
- Patients under the age of 16 years, must have the request for exam approved by the radiologist prior to the technologist performing the exam.
- In order to avoid a duplicate exam at a later date, the patient should be asked if the report from the exam can be forwarded to their family physician as well.
- If the patient presents for an exam and it is noted that they had a recent previous exam ordered by a physician, the chiropractor must be notified and most likely the report from the previous exam will be sufficient for their purposes.
- Chiropractors cannot order therapeutic Pain Injections or ProIotherapy. All requests for injections must come from a general practitioner / family physician.