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## POLICY

SUBJECT: Chiropractor Referral
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### POLICY STATEMENT

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

#### 1.0 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 These exams will be clearly marked as being ordered by a chiropractor when sent to the radiologist for reporting.
- 1.3 CAMIS reserve 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 imaging of the shoulder for rotator cuff injuries, elbow for epicondylitis and achilles tendon.

CAMIS will accept requests for MRI of the lumbar spine.

All requests **SHOULD** include a copy to the patients' family doctor. Ultrasound and MRI requests **MUST** include a copy to the patients' family doctor.

- 1.4 **Only routine general x-ray procedures as per the positioning manual will be performed.** The chiropractor cannot request oblique views of T-L spines, coned vertebrae views, flexion and extension views, pelvic inlet/outlet etc. If these views are required they will be suggested by the radiologist upon review of the initial exam.
- 1.5 Chiropractor spinal x-ray views are normally requested in the **upright** position.
- 1.6 Patients under the age of 16 years, must have the request for exam approved by the radiologist prior to the technologist performing the exam.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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.