

# SAFE PRACTICES FOR CHIROPRACTORS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Prepared for:



## UNDERSTAND PRESENT REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES

- Local
- State
- Federal
- OSHA
- Insurance Carriers



## STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- All staff must be screened on a daily basis and an inquiry made into their contact with any family or friends that may be infected or exposed to COVID-19.
- Staff must be educated on safe practices for maintaining the premises, such as disinfecting and maintaining surfaces and treatment devices.
- All staff must be provided, at a minimum, with appropriate gloves and at least a level-three mask.
- Staff schedules should be staggered to limit the number of individuals in the office and ensure safe social distancing.
- Staff hygiene must be enforced and staff must be trained in the proper use of their personal protective equipment (PPE).

## OFFICE PREPARATION & MAINTENANCE

- All surfaces with which staff and patients may come into contact should be cleaned with soap and water and then sanitized with EPA-approved sanitizer on a daily basis.
- All treatment devices and treatment tables also should be cleaned and sanitized before the office opens and/or at the end of each day.
- Hand sanitizer should be placed in office areas for patient use.
- Physical barriers at the front desk may be used for the safety of the staff and patients.
- Signs should be placed inside and outside the office informing the patients that all efforts have been taken by the doctor and his staff to promote a safe environment.
- After each treatment session, the treatment devices and tables must be sanitized and prepared for the next patient.
- Stagger the patient visits for the day and avoid use of the waiting room; patients should wait in their vehicles in the parking lot for a text telling them to enter the building as the previous patient leaves the premises.



## THE PATIENT

- Patient in-office treatment should be prioritized using the doctor's best judgment; telehealth may be an option in certain instances.
- Patients should be notified to wear at least cloth facial protection; providing a mask to the patient may be an option if feasible.
- All patients must be screened for any present health issues that may increase their risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Patients must be screened to determine if they have had any contact with friends or family that have contracted COVID-19 or if the patient had contracted COVID-19 in the past.
- Consider using your website to screen patients with a questionnaire that can be accessed on your website, as this provides crucial information prior to scheduling the patient.

**Never represent to the patient that any of your care and treatment can prevent or cure a COVID-19 infection.**

## TELEHEALTH

- Telehealth may be a viable option if the doctor deems it appropriate for the patient's clinical presentation.
- Ensure telehealth is appropriate for your practice by examining local, state and federal rules, as well as whether telehealth is covered by your patients' insurance carriers.
- Telehealth must be HIPAA compliant and patients must sign a HIPAA release specific to telehealth.
- Use telehealth codes to ensure government and insurance compliance.
- Doctors must evidence in the patient's chart that telehealth was used, the reason for its use, and any and all treatment recommendations that were provided to the patient.
- If at-home treatment exercise is prescribed for the patient, consider emailing the patient any appropriate instructions for the in-home exercises.



## WEBSITE

- Update your website to inform your patients of new office policies and procedures during the COVID-19 pandemic (list precautions the office has taken).
- No one can guarantee a COVID-19-free environment; so do not advertise to patients that they are not at risk when receiving treatment at your office.
- Your website should provide all forms to the patients for HIPAA, treatment consent and a screening questionnaire.

## MISCELLANEOUS CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider using Treatment/Consent Forms specific to treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, which can be found on the internet.
- Confirm with your liability insurance carrier liability insurance coverage for telehealth and issues that may arise during the pandemic.
- Common sense is your best ally during this pandemic, so tap into your training and experience when in doubt.



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