

EDUCATION Licensure & Regulation



To become a licensed practitioner, chiropractors must complete the following educational and regulatory frameworks.

EDUCATION

A chiropractor's education in Canada involves:



- A minimum of **three years of undergraduate education at an accredited university** prior to entering the chiropractic program
- Completion of a **four-year degree** aligned with World Health Organization guidelines



- **1,300** hours of clinical internships
- **1,250** course hours training in MSK patient care (including assessment, diagnosis, pain management, restoration of function, education and preventative care)
- **450+** course hours focused on spinal manipulative therapy: biomechanics, contraindications
- **360** hours of education in radiology



- Education on interprofessional collaboration

Chiropractors are also educated in MSK diagnostics and are able to distinguish between MSK conditions and other systemic disorders with MSK manifestations. 29% of courses at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College focus on diagnosis and 18% with diagnostic imaging; this is significantly more than other allied professions that provide MSK care. While other healthcare practitioners can complete advanced training in areas of diagnosis, imaging, and spinal manipulative therapy, these are core competencies for chiropractors.

- **Examination of candidates for licensure:** Upon graduation from an accredited program, candidates must pass written and practical exams offered by the Canadian Chiropractic Examining Board (CCEB).
- **Application to provincial or territorial regulatory board:** After passing the CCEB examinations, candidates apply for licensure in a Canadian province or territory. Each regulatory jurisdiction has unique requirements for registration.

REGULATION

Like physicians, nurses, pharmacists and many other health professionals, chiropractors are regulated under the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991*, and adhere to this framework. Chiropractors carry their own liability insurance. Chiropractors are regulated by the College of Chiropractors of Ontario (CCO). The CCO also establishes and manages the authorized acts, which include:

- Communicating a diagnosis to identify a disorder arising from the structure/function of the spine and their effects on the nervous system, and/or a disorder arising from the structures/functions of the joints of the extremities,
 - Moving the joints of the spine beyond one's usual physiological range of motion using a fast, low amplitude thrust and,
 - Putting a finger beyond the anal verge for the purpose of manipulating the tailbone.
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