

## SP 18.0 Open Treatment Concept

Reviewed by Council March 2006  
Effective May 2003

### **Purpose and Objective**

Standards for the delivery of care, and professional conduct are governed by Standards of Practice, and other legislation, for the chiropractic profession in Alberta. The purpose and objective of implementing an open treatment concept standard is to ensure the quality of care, respect for patient dignity, and an ethical and professional approach is maintained.

### **Definition(s)**

Practitioners who choose to design their base and/or satellite clinics using open treatment areas are required to provide for the following:

- Appropriate protocol related to patient preparation and patient examination must be observed by the practitioner
- It is the responsibility of the practitioner to ensure patient dignity, and confidentiality of personal information is respected and maintained within the parameters of prescribed legislation and professional accountability
- Each patient, or the guardian of a minor receiving treatment, must be offered the choice of treatment in an enclosed private area
- Outside views and windows to an open treatment area should have window coverings/ treatments sufficient to provide a reasonable degree of privacy for the patients in the treatment area
- Practitioners are responsible for ensuring their professional and liability insurance includes coverage for care provided in an open treatment area
- As with all areas of practice management, practitioners are responsible for ensuring they understand the risk management considerations related to care provided within an open treatment area.

### **Enforceability**

Any member identified to the Complaints Director as non-compliant in the Standard of Practice related to the open treatment concept is subject to the investigations and complaints process under Part 4 of the *Health Professions Act*. Identification of non-compliance may occur as a result of the Practice Visit process, patient complaint or any other means by which this information may be brought to the attention of the Complaints Director.

