

## SP 28.0 Putting a Finger Beyond the Anal Verge for the Purpose of Sacro-coccygeal Adjusting

Approved by Council February 2007  
Effective March 1, 2007

### **Purpose and Objective**

To assist a member in maintaining a minimum standard of care that must be met prior to performing sacro-coccygeal adjustment.

### **Legislative Context**

#### **Section 7.1 of the Government Organization Act**

*2(1) The following, carried out in relation to or as part of providing a health service, are restricted activities:*

- (b) to insert or remove instruments, devices, fingers or hands*
- (vi) beyond the anal verge*

#### **Section 13 – Basic Authorized Activities (Chiropractic Regulation)**

*13. A regulated member may within the practice of chiropractic and in accordance with the Standards of Practice perform the following restricted activities:*

- (b) to insert or remove instruments, devices or fingers*
- (iii) beyond the anal verge;*

### **Description of Standard**

#### **Overview**

Performing a sacro-coccygeal adjustment requires appropriate training and practice to develop the necessary skill and competence. Familiarity with the following areas is essential for the adjustment of the sacro-coccygeal joint:

- the anatomic structures of the sacro-coccygeal joint and the surrounding area;
- the presentation of coccydynia and the ability to differentiate this pain from that of a referred pattern;
- the examination and diagnostic procedures of the sacro-coccygeal joint; and
- the treatment and adjustive techniques for coccygeal correction.

#### **Consideration of Public Safety**

To perform manipulative procedures of the sacro-coccygeal joint, a member shall be thoroughly familiar with the procedure. The member must consider contra-indications.

#### **Degree of Skill**

The following are important features of the skill required for manipulation of the sacro-coccygeal joint:

- knowledge of anatomical structures;
- knowledge of protocol for coccygeal correction;
- good sense in providing minimum risk to the patient; and
- the member's mindfulness of the patient's reaction to this procedure.

Regulated members must demonstrate proficiency and be competent when adjusting the sacro-coccygeal region and must restrict themselves to a level that is appropriate to the member's skill with the delivery of the adjustment.



SP 28.0 Continued

**Informed Consent**

Consent shall be fully informed and voluntarily given. A member shall fully explain the diagnosis, treatment procedure and prognosis to the patient before proceeding with the manipulation of the tailbone. It is recommended that consent be evidenced in written form.

**Enforceability**

Any member identified to the Complaints Director as non-compliant in the Standard of Practice related to putting a finger beyond the anal verge for the purpose of sacro-coccygeal adjusting will be subject to the investigations and complaints process under Part 4 of the *Health Professions Act*. Identification of noncompliance may occur as a result of Practice Visit process, patient complaint or any other means by which this information may be brought to the attention of the Complaints Director.

