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Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor

**SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF MARYLAND LICENSED CHIROPRACTORS
RE: PHYSICAL THERAPY PRIVILEGES**

This letter is available to all Maryland licensed chiropractors in the event your status to perform and bill for physical therapy services is questioned or challenged by insurance carriers.

Pursuant to the explicit provisions of the Maryland Chiropractic Act (MD Code Annotated, Health Occupations Art., Section 3-1-1) licensed chiropractors are fully authorized to practice physical therapy without restriction. Additionally, section 3-301c of that Article clarifies this issue further by stating:

Practice of physical therapy permitted – A chiropractor who holds a license to practice chiropractic with the right to practice physical therapy may practice chiropractic and physical therapy in this state.

These statutory provisions are clear and unequivocal. Historically, chiropractors in Maryland retained the right to practice physical therapy years before a physical therapy board even existed. The right to practice physical therapy has consistently been retained by the chiropractic profession and has never been diminished or reduced by the Legislature. Significantly, chiropractors holding a physical therapy endorsement on their license must pass an extensive physiotherapy examination by the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners and must pass a minimum of 270 hours of didactic and clinical curriculum in physical therapy from an accredited school.

Any attempt to interpret the aforementioned statutory provisions in a manner to deny or to reduce physical therapy privileges for chiropractors is fully inconsistent with the law enacted by the MD General Assembly. It is this Board's consistent position (supported by the MD Office of Attorney General) that the aforementioned rights and privileges must be fully recognized by healthcare practitioners, insurers and underwriters. To do otherwise is to unlawfully restrict and to jeopardize the right of Maryland licensed chiropractors to fully and freely practice their profession. Any questions may be addressed to the undersigned at 410.764-4726.



J. J. Vallone, J.D.
Board Executive Director
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