

## 2 PART 2 EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

The ECCE defines the education and training of a chiropractor in terms of: i) first qualification education and training, at the end of which the graduate is safe and competent to enter practice, and ii) postgraduate education and training<sup>6</sup> that normally immediately follows graduation for a defined period of time, at the end of which the chiropractor is fit to practise in an autonomous and independent manner. Both components (first qualification and postgraduate) are considered essential in producing a primary contact provider acting in a professional role. The *Standards* herein, only apply to the first qualification part of that education and training.

Chiropractors must possess a sufficient educational base to be able to care for the health needs of the public by acting as primary contact practitioners, and in particular by delivering chiropractic care in a safe and competent manner. As a primary contact practitioner, the chiropractor must be able to diagnose, to prevent and treat illness, and to consult with, or refer to, other healthcare providers in the best interests of the patient. Educational programmes must produce chiropractors who are willing and able to develop further their knowledge and skills, and a commitment to keep up to date and respond to evolving and changing health needs of patients and the community throughout their professional careers.

### 2.1 COMPETENCIES OF CHIROPRACTIC GRADUATES

#### 1. GRADUATE CHIROPRACTORS WILL HAVE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF:

The normal structure and function of the human body and the interactions between body and mind.

The aetiology, pathology, symptoms and signs, natural history and prognosis of neuromusculoskeletal complaints, pain syndromes and associated conditions presenting to chiropractors, including the psychological and social aspects of these conditions.

The evaluation of the health status of a patient, including common diagnostic procedures, their uses and limitations, and appropriate referral procedures.

The management of common conditions, including manual therapies, rehabilitation and nutritional advice, and the principles of health promotion and disease prevention.

The scientific method to provide and understand the evidence-base for current chiropractic practice, and to acquire and incorporate the advances in knowledge that will occur throughout professional life.

The theory and principles of chiropractic practice, based on the biopsychosocial model of illness, its limitations, and its role in the primary healthcare setting.

The principles of ethics related to chiropractic care, legal responsibilities and codes of professional conduct and practice.

The varying cultural, gender and ethnic differences of patients.

---

<sup>6</sup> Postgraduate education and training is NOT the same as Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

2. GRADUATE CHIROPRACTORS WILL HAVE DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING **SKILLS**:

The ability to take a comprehensive and problem-focused case history and perform an appropriate physical examination.

The ability to integrate history and physical examination findings to arrive at an appropriate diagnosis and/or differential diagnosis.

The ability to interpret diagnostic procedures and make an appropriate response.

The ability to select appropriate clinical skills and to formulate a management plan in concert with the patient.

The ability to apply appropriate clinical skills in the treatment of a patient, and to provide information and advice for recovery and continued health.

The ability to communicate clearly with patients, their families, other healthcare professionals, and the general public, and to ensure patients are fully informed of their treatment and care.

The ability to interpret scientific evidence in a critical manner, and to find and use information relating to healthcare.

3. GRADUATE CHIROPRACTORS WILL DEMONSTRATE THE FOLLOWING **ATTITUDES** ESSENTIAL TO SAFE AND COMPETENT CHIROPRACTIC PRACTICE:

Recognition that the chiropractor's primary professional responsibilities are the health and care of the patient.

Respect for the values and attitudes of the patient, and a commitment to patient-centred care.

Commitment to safe and ethical practice, and to maintain standards of chiropractic practice at the highest possible level throughout professional life.

Appreciation of the need to recognise when a condition exceeds capacity to deal with it safely and effectively, and of the need to refer patients for help from other healthcare practitioners when this occurs.

Appreciation of the need to continually update knowledge and skills throughout professional life, and to contribute towards the generation of knowledge and the education of junior colleagues.

Willingness to work in the wider healthcare context, and in a team with other healthcare professionals.