



# Scope of Practice

Chiropractic Physicians are licensed under the Medical Practice of 1987, the same law that includes medical doctors and osteopathic physicians. Below is an outline that describes the various health care functions Chiropractic Physicians are licensed to perform in Illinois. The items below demonstrate our parity to other types of physicians.

## License Status

Under Illinois law, doctors of chiropractic possess status as full physicians, including authority to diagnose and treat the full range of human ailments, so long as it is without the use of drugs or operative surgery. Under the Medical Practice Act, there are two general categories of physicians: one that may practice medicine in all of its branches (medical doctors and doctors of osteopathy) and one that may practice any method of diagnosing and treating human ailments without the use of drugs or operative surgery (doctors of chiropractic), both categories being equal in all respects except for the authority to use certain forms of treatment.

## Chiropractic Physician as Primary Care Physician

Chiropractic physicians are authorized to act as primary care physicians under the administrative rules of the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Department of Insurance.

## Authority to Order Blood Tests and Testing of Other Laboratory Specimens

Under the Clinical Laboratory and Blood Bank Act (210 ILCS 25/7-101), chiropractic physicians are authorized to order blood and other specimen testing. They are specifically included as licensees under the Medical Practice Act. As additional authority, the Attorney General issued an opinion in 1963 specifically affirming the right of chiropractic physicians to perform blood testing. This opinion still stands.

## Examinations Performed by Chiropractic Physicians Under the School Code and

### Other Types of Examinations Performed by Chiropractic Physicians

Chiropractic physicians are approved under the School Code to sign off on teacher and student certification for sick leave (105 ILCS 5/26-1), to order modified physical education courses for a student (105 ILCS 5/27-6) and to perform physical examinations on school bus drivers (625 ILCS 5/6-106.1). Licensed chiropractic physicians also may become qualified to issue medical certifications of commercial truck drivers under both State of Illinois and federal law and rules.

## Case Law

The Illinois Supreme Court case declared in 1924 in *People v. Witte*, 315 Ill.282, “there is no distinction between the two classes of practitioners as to the diseases which they may treat.” This case has not been overturned and is still good law. Moreover, the Illinois Supreme Court in 2003 affirmed the status of chiropractic physicians in *Vuagniaux v. Department of Professional Regulation et al.*, 208 Ill.2d 173, stating that “...the Medical Practice Act treats [chiropractic physicians] as full and equal members of the medical profession. **Under the law, those holding the degree of doctor of chiropractic possess precisely the same professional stature as those holding degrees as doctors of medicine or doctors of osteopathy. All are regarded as physicians.**” [Emphasis added.]