

Section Four – Radiographic Guidelines

CHP Radiographic Guidelines

The CHP Group (CHP) has established guidelines for radiographic examinations and for the treatment of common musculoskeletal conditions that help to clarify CHP expectations and reflect our commitment to the delivery of evidence-based quality chiropractic care. Because x-ray exposure poses some risk to patients, it is generally agreed that x-rays must be used carefully with an assessment of the risk-to-benefit ratio. It is CHP policy that:

- Radiographic examinations must be justified by clinical need and have a direct impact on patient management. This should be reflected in the chart notes.
- Appropriate technical procedure must be followed to prevent retakes and minimize radiation exposure.
- Radiographs must be of sufficient diagnostic quality.
- Radiographic examinations are not appropriate as screening procedures.

CHP relies on the providers' professional opinion and clinical documentation to determine when an x-ray examination is appropriate. The following guidelines are provided to foster clinical quality:

Non-Indicators for Radiographic Exams

Unnecessary duplication of services

Patient education

Routine screening

Habit

Discharge status assessment

Routine biomechanical analysis

Pre-employment status

Financial gain

Pregnancy

Possible Indicators for Radiographic Exams

Corticosteroid use

High risk for osteoporosis

Constitutional/systemic disease

Inflammatory arthritis

Neuro-motor deficit

Medico-legal implications when combined with clinical indicators

Other Indicators for Radiographic Exams

Suspicion of fracture

Suspicion of primary or metastatic tumor

Suspicion of infection of bone or joint

Suspicion of progressive deformity (e.g., spondylolisthesis)

Failure to respond to therapy