

**[PITAHC CIRCULAR NO. 01, SERIES OF 2010,
November 17, 2010]**

**GUIDELINES ON THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION OF
CHIROPRACTIC**

**RULE I
Policy and Application**

Section 1. Title. These guidelines shall be known as the PITAHC Guidelines on the National Certification of Chiropractic.

Section 2. Purpose. These Guidelines are promulgated to prescribe the procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the PITAHC Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) on the National Certification of Chiropractic pursuant to Rule VI, Promotion, Advocacy and Training of IRR of RA 8423. These Rules also serve the accreditation of chiropractic programs, training centers and clinics to pursue continuous service improvement, and strengthen the accountability of all stakeholders in the traditional and alternative health care practices.

Section 3. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to improve the quality and delivery of health care services to the Filipino people through the development of traditional and alternative health care and its integration into the national health care delivery system.

Section 4. Objectives. The Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (PITAHC), in accordance with its powers and functions under Section 6 of R.A. No. 8423, herein recognizes that Chiropractic under Section 5(a) of this Guidelines, is an accessible, beneficial and affordable alternative mode of health care that will contribute significantly to public health. In order to facilitate qualified and safe practice of chiropractic as well as to protect the public and chiropractic health care consumers, the objectives of these Guidelines are:

1. To develop standards and guidelines of the Chiropractic practice, which must be consistent with the existing laws on mainstream medical practice;
2. To guide PITAHC on the regulation of Chiropractic practice;
3. To certify and endorse chiropractors and accreditation of training programs and/learning institutions, clinics, and organizations;
4. To guide PITAHC in setting the minimum requirements for chiropractic education recommended by CHED;
5. To develop Chiropractic Code of Ethics

Section 5. Definition of Terms. For the purpose of these guidelines, the following terms and words and phrases shall mean or be understood as follows:

a) Chiropractic – It is a health care profession concerned with the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disorders of the neuro-musculoskeletal system and the

effects of these disorders on general health. There is an emphasis on manual techniques, including joint adjustment and/or manipulation, with a particular focus on subluxations. (WHO definition)

b) Chiropractor – A duly-registered and licensed health care professional engaged in the practice of chiropractic, concerned with health issues of the neuro-musculoskeletal system and the effects of these disorders on general health. There is an emphasis on manual techniques, including joint adjustment and/or manipulation, with a particular focus on subluxations.

c) Adjustment – Any chiropractic therapeutic procedure that ultimately uses controlled force, leverage, direction, amplitude and velocity, which is applied to specific joints and adjacent tissues. Chiropractors commonly use such procedures to influence joint and neuro-physiological function.

d) Biomechanics – the study of structural, functional and mechanical aspects of human motion. It is concerned mainly with external forces of either a static or dynamic nature, dealing with human movement.

e) Fixation – The state whereby an articulation has become fully or partially immobilized in a certain position, restricting physiological movement.

f) Joint manipulation – A manual procedure involving directed thrust to move a joint past the physiological range of motion, without exceeding the anatomical limit.

g) Joint mobilization – A manual procedure without thrust, during which a joint normally remains within its physiological range of motion.

h) Neuro-musculoskeletal – Pertaining to the musculoskeletal and nervous systems in relation to disorders that manifest themselves in both the musculoskeletal and nervous systems, including disorders of a biomechanical or functional nature.

i) Palpation – (1) The act of feeling with the hands. (2) The application of variable manual pressure through the surface of the body for the purpose of determining the shape, size, consistency, position, inherent motility and health of the tissues beneath.

j) Spinal manipulative procedures – includes all procedures where the hands or mechanical devices are used to mobilize, adjust, manipulate, apply traction, massage, stimulate or otherwise influence the spine and para-spinal tissues with the aim of influencing the chiropractic health care consumer's health.

k) Subluxation – A lesion or dysfunction in a joint or motion segment in which alignment, movement, integrity and/or physiological function are altered, although contact between joint surfaces remains intact. It is essentially a functional entity, which may influence biomechanical and neural integrity. This definition is different from the current medical definition, in which subluxation is a significant structural displacement, and therefore a visible in static imaging studies.

l) Subluxation complex (vertebral) – A theoretical model and description of the motion segment dysfunction, which incorporates the interaction of pathological changes in nerve, muscle, ligamentous, vascular and connective tissue.

m) Thrust – The sudden manual application of a controlled directional force upon a suitable part of the chiropractic health care consumer, the delivery of which effects

and adjustment.

n) Assessment – The systematic collection and interpretation of information based on chiropractic principles.

o) National Certification – Process of issuing certificates requiring education and training that assures the competency of practitioners and trainers, administered by PITAHC and other PITAHC accredited institutions.

p) National Accreditation – Process of issuing certificates to training programs, centers and clinics.

q) Code of Ethics – a summary of the standards by which chiropractors agree to conduct their practice and is a declaration of the general principles of acceptable, ethical, professional behavior.

RULE II

The National Certification of Chiropractors

Section 1. National Certification Committee for Chiropractic. For the purpose of certifying chiropractors, the PITAHC Director General shall invite active Filipino Practitioners in the field of Chiropractic, hereinafter referred to as National Certification Committee for Chiropractic. The invitation is valid only for the period indicated herein, renewable at the option of PITAHC Director General.

a. Composition

The Committee shall be composed of the following:

PITAHC Director General – Ex-officio Chairman

Representatives of the following sectors:

- Three (3) duly-licensed practicing Chiropractors, as defined in these Rules;
- One (1) Medical Doctor preferably from the Philippine Medical Association (PMA); and
- One (1) Educator preferably from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)

The five (5) members representing the above mentioned sectors shall be appointed by the PITAHC Director General. Of the appointed members, the first three (3) members shall have a term of three (3) years while the remaining two (2) members shall have a term of two (2) years, renewable.

All chiropractors recommended to the National Certification Committee for Chiropractic must be PITAHC duly-certified Filipino Chiropractors, a Medical Doctor and an educator practicing in the Philippines, of good moral character and have not violated ethical standards of the profession.

b. Quorum and Vote

Actions taken by the National Certification Committee for Chiropractic should be by a majority vote of the five (5) representatives from the identified sectors above, in a meeting duly called for the purposes, attended by a majority of members (3 of 5 representatives), and are subject to PITAHC approval. The PITAHC Director General

shall cast his vote in the event of a tie among the sectoral representatives-members in a meeting duly called for said purposes, there being a quorum.

c. The PITAHC Advocacy and Training Division Chief and Standard and Accreditation Division Chief shall serve as permanent representatives.

d. The Standard and Accreditation Division shall serve as Committee Secretariat.

Section 2. Duties and Functions of the Committee

a. Develop and maintain the assessments based on the competency standards and code of ethics for Chiropractic;

b. Formulate, review and recommend policies to PITAHC relating to chiropractic education and practice;

c. Recommend and advice PITAHC on issues pertaining to the certification of practice, including, but not limited to, the issuance of and administration of chiropractic certification and administration of licensure;

d. Review and approve Continuing Education course for Chiropractors;

e. Accredite training programs, centers, schools and clinics for chiropractic;

f. Administer the national certification assessments for chiropractic competence standard;

g. Certify practitioners;

h. Revoke certification/accreditation of practitioners, training centers, schools, and clinics for chiropractic;

i. Safeguard public trust by upholding the PITAHC Code of Ethics for Chiropractors;

j. Review and approve research proposals on chiropractic and recommend to PITAHC for approval and/or funding.

The National Certification Committee for Chiropractic may organize sub-committees to pursue specific functions on accreditation, development of standard and guidelines of chiropractic education, licensure certification and other specific functions as may be deemed necessary to further develop and enhance the profession.

A Technical Working Group (TWG) on Education will be convened to work out the curriculum for chiropractic.

RULE III

The National Certification of Chiropractics

Section 1. National Certification Educational and Technical Qualifications

A. No person shall engage in the practice of chiropractic in the Philippines unless he/she is:

- Filipino citizen;
- At least twenty-one (21) years of age
- Has completed the prescribed chiropractic course herein in a learning institution accredited by PITAHC;
- Satisfactorily passed the corresponding chiropractic certification examination; and
- A holder of a valid Certificate of Registration duly issued to him/her by PITAHC in cooperation with the National Certification Committee for Chiropractic