



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

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**To:           Chiropractic Licensees**

**From:        Bureau of Health Professions**

**Subject:     Approved List of Analytical Instruments, Adjustment Apparatus, Tests and Measures**

**Date:        June 1, 2010**

With the passage of PA 223, the scope of practice for the Michigan chiropractor has expanded. The legislation indicates that it takes immediate effect but there are some areas that require the promulgation of administrative rules before all parts of the legislation can take effect. The criteria for any analytical instrument, adjustment apparatus, tests or measure that can be used by the chiropractor must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Shall be used for the practice of chiropractic as defined in Section 16401(1)(e) of the Public Health Code (PA 368 of 1978 as amended)
- Shall be used for the purpose of correcting or reducing subluxations, misalignments, and joint dysfunctions
- Use shall be substantially equivalent to nationally recognized standards as taught in accredited chiropractic educational programs

The practice of chiropractic is now extended to deal with the human nervous system and the musculoskeletal system and their interrelationship with other body systems. Chiropractors can use diagnosis of human conditions and disorders of the human musculoskeletal and nervous system as they relate to subluxations, misalignments, and joint dysfunctions. These diagnoses are for the purpose of detecting and correcting those conditions or disorders or offering advice to seek treatment from other health professionals in order to restore and maintain health.

The chiropractor can use the following to evaluate conditions or symptoms related to subluxations, misalignments, and joint dysfunctions: physical examinations, the taking and reviewing of patient health information, the performance, ordering or use of tests and x-rays that were allowed prior to the expansion of the practice extended to subluxations, misalignments and joint dysfunctions; chiropractic adjustment of subluxations, misalignments, and joint dysfunctions and the treatment of related bones and tissues for the establishment of neural integrity and structural stability and the use of physical measures, analytical instruments, nutritional advice, rehabilitative exercise and adjustment apparatus if acceptable to the board and meet nationally recognized standards.

To assist practicing chiropractors with this new legislation, the Board of Chiropractic has reviewed and updated its list of approved analytical instruments, adjustment apparatus, tests and measurements.

## **ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENTS**

Instruments used in the diagnosis of human conditions and disorders of the human musculoskeletal and nervous systems as they relate to subluxations, misalignments and joint

dysfunctions. These instruments shall be used for the purpose of detecting those conditions and disorders or offering advice to seek treatment from other health professionals in order to restore and maintain health, including, but not limited to:

**Electronic Infrared Thermograph** – a system to create a quantitative image of the surface temperatures of the body

**Superficial heat detecting instruments or electronic thermal scanning instruments**, such as, but not limited to:

- Neuro-caligraph
- Dermathermagraph
- Thermoscribe
- Unipolar Thermister
- Bipolar Thermister

**Scales (weight)** – use bilateral scales side by side to measure a patient's weight distribution from one side to the other to help determine if there is subluxation and/or to help measure correction after a course of treatment.

**Protractors** – use in the analysis of x-ray studies to draw and measure radiographic lines.

**Dynamometer, Grip Manometer and other muscle strength evaluation devices** - use to determine if there is muscular weakness that could be caused by nerve irritation, resulting in weakness on one side relative to the other.

**Rulers** – use to draw lines of radiographs to determine the existence or severity of subluxations misalignments and joint dysfunctions.

**Tape measure** – use during an examination to determine if there is a decrease in extremity muscle mass size as a result of a possible nerve irritation from subluxation or a potentially bulging disc.

**Grids, Plumblines, and Levels** - use to determine if there are postural abnormalities indicating subluxations or muscular/skeletal imbalances.

**Spinal stress analyzer** – instrument designed to measure amount of postural imbalance due to muscle contraction

**X-ray** – for diagnostic purposes only

**Percussion/reflex Instruments, Pinwheels, Tuning Forks** - use in testing upper and lower extremity reflexes to determine if there is nerve irritation.

**Photography** – use photography to determine if there are postural abnormalities indicating subluxations or muscular/skeletal imbalances. Photography is often used in conjunction with plumblines or grids.

**Goniometer** – use to measure range of motion of the spine or other joints to determine if the range of motion is restricted

**Non-invasive EMG or surface EMG** – measures the electrical activity of individual muscles or muscle groups

**Biofeedback machine** – measures energy levels to detect abnormalities

**Otoscope** – medical device used to examine the ears

**Ophthalmoscope** – an instrument used to examine the interior structures of the eye

**Stethoscope**- acoustic instrument used to listen to the internal sounds of the human body

**Spirometer** – used for pre and post treatment analysis of patients that have upper back spinal dysfunction which may be affecting the patient's ability to take a deep breath.

**Thermometer** – measures heat discrepancy from one side of the spine relative to the other to determine the existence of subluxations and/or measure the outcome of treatment.

**Galvanometer** - instrument used to detect and measure electric current

**Sphygmomanometer** – instrument used to measure blood pressure

## **ADJUSTMENT APPARATUS**

Apparatus for correcting or reducing subluxations, misalignments and joint dysfunctions, including, but not limited to:

**Traction Devices**

**Adjustment Instruments**

**Adjustment Tables**

**Musculoskeletal Stabilizers**

## **PHYSICAL MEASURES**

Physical measures used for correcting or reducing subluxations, misalignments and joint dysfunctions, including, but not limited to:

**Massage** – manipulation of superficial layers of muscle and connective tissue to alleviate pain and discomfort

**Mobilization** – method of manipulation, movement or stretching to increase range of motions in muscles and joints that does not involve a high-velocity thrust

**Heat** –use of hot/moist packs or diathermy in an area of treatment to promote healing and restoration of function.

**Cold** – ice pack application in an area of treatment to promote healing and restoration of function.

**Light** – use laser, infrared, ultraviolet, heat lamps, etc. to promote healing and restoration of function.

**Water** – use whirlpools or hydromassage for the use of treatment or rehabilitation in an area of treatment to promote healing and restoration of function.

**Electricity** – use of high volt, low volt or interferential current to aid in the correction of muscular/skeletal problems to promote healing and restoration of function.

**Sound** – use of ultrasound to aid in the correction of muscular/skeletal problems to promote healing and restoration of function.

**Traction** – set of mechanisms to relieve pressure on the spine and skeletal system

**Decompression** – intermittent motorized or hydraulic distraction used as treatment for disc problems, low back pain or neck pain

**Taping** – use of medical tape to stabilize injury or immobilize

**Rehabilitative Exercises** – recommended stretches or movements intended to relieve stress on the spine and skeletal system

## TESTS

The performance, ordering or use of tests for the diagnosis of human conditions and disorders of the human musculoskeletal and nervous systems as they relate to subluxations, misalignments and joint dysfunctions. These tests shall be for the purpose of detecting those conditions and disorders or offering advice to seek treatment from other health professionals in order to restore and maintain health, including, but not limited to:

**Neurologic** – evaluation of motor and sensory skills

**Orthopedic** – used to identify specific nature of musculoskeletal injury or condition

**Muscle Testing** – assessment of the body's electrical system balance by pushing or pulling on various muscles and evaluating the corresponding weaknesses

**Gait** – assessment of balance, coordination and posture while walking

**Blood** – use of blood tests to measure the outcome of nutritional counseling or to determine the need to continue treatment or refer to another health care provider if a patient has not responded to treatment.

**Urine** – use to measure the outcome of nutritional counseling or to determine the need to continue treatment or to refer to another health care provider if a patient has not responded to treatment.

**Hair** – use to measure the outcome of nutritional counseling.

**Saliva** – use to measure the outcome of nutritional counseling.

**Ordering, and use of non-invasive imaging tests, consistent with modern technology and related to spinal subluxations** –may use an MRI of the spine to determine a patients biomechanical problems in the spine or to offer advice to seek treatment from other healthcare professionals in order to restore or maintain health if the condition is outside the scope of chiropractic.