X-RAY

POLICY

In the interest of establishing a consistent standard concerning the use of ionizing radiation, this policy ensures the safe, effective use of ionizing radiation and aims to minimize the potential risk from adverse biological effects to patients, students, faculty and staff.

All students will be expected to read and understand these policies upon entering the health center. This policy, which contains the guidelines for the use of x-rays in patient care, is detailed in the *Student Interns Handbook.*

CLINICAL NECESSITY

Rationale for Radiography in Chiropractic Practice
Doctors of Chiropractic are responsible for determining the safety and appropriateness of chiropractic care. This responsibility includes the detection and characterization of vertebral subluxations, congenital and developmental anomalies which may affect the selection of chiropractic techniques and conditions which may contraindicate certain chiropractic adjusting methods.

Radiography represents a useful tool to assist the chiropractor in making such determinations including the misalignment component of the vertebral subluxation and the developmental and pathological changes that may affect the selection and administration of chiropractic techniques. Furthermore, radiography may disclose conditions requiring referral or co-management with another type of health care provider. The student intern must consult with the patient's case doctor when considering the use of radiography.

Principles of Radiation Protection

X-ray examinations should only be conducted when clinically indicated. The decision to x-ray a patient is based upon the case history, examination findings, the best available external evidence, the judgement of the chiropractor and the unique features of the individual. Radiation exposure should be as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) and image quality as high as reasonably achievable (AHARA).

Deliberate exposure of an individual to radiographic procedures for training or demonstration purposes shall not be permitted unless there is a documented diagnostic need for the exposure and approval by a member of the Sherman College Health Center faculty.

Emergency X-ray

Unless there is an overriding reason such as severe trauma, suspected fracture or serious pathology, x-rays will not be taken prior to completing the case history, physical examination and spinal examination of the region under evaluation. The AP and lateral views of a region (opposing views)

supply the basic analytical information and based upon clinical and pathological findings, additional views may be requested by the radiology supervisor or attending case doctor.