



## THE CHILD PATIENT: A MATRIX FOR CHIROPRACTIC CARE

*The Chiropractic Choice* received an overwhelmingly positive response to the **The Child Patient: A Matrix For Chiropractic Care**, published as a supplement by the ICA Pediatric Council's *Journal of Clinical Chiropractic Pediatrics* and announced in the last issue of *The Chiropractic Choice* (Vol. 4, No. 5). We thank everyone for their letters and comments which have been passed on to the author and regret we are only able to publish a few of those comments in this issue due to limited space.

Dear Editor:

I want to commend Dr. Joan Fallon on her work regarding a matrix of chiropractic care for the pediatric patient. It is important for those of us who see children in our practices to have a discussion about how much care is clinically warranted for a given patient. While more has been written on this topic with regards to adult patients, hers is the first to comprehensively address the topic of visit frequency in the pediatric population.

Any form of health care ethically requires a discussion of standards of care. This topic has rarely been addressed in the pediatric chiropractic world, most likely due to the fact that there is minimal large-scale research in this field. I concur that, rather than waiting for the research to appear, we should use the "knowledge claims" she describes to begin the discussion of frequency of care, modifying the standards as more empirical evidence comes into being.

Chiropractic care, whether of adults or children, is at its core the enhancement of health through the removal of subluxations of the spine and cranium that may interfere with a person's natural healing abilities and expression of health. This matrix is an attempt to describe the frequency of chiropractic care needed for all children to remain subluxation-free, ranging from a child who appears outwardly healthy to one who has an acute illness to one who has a permanent impairment. Since acute, transient and permanent conditions all adversely affect a child's health and healing abilities and may create or exacerbate subluxations, this matrix correctly puts the amount of care needed proportional to the severity and extent of existing complications.

This matrix is an excellent beginning to the discussion of the proper standards of care as regards the pediatric chiropractic patient. While I expect there to be lively discussion about the specifics in the matrix, I'm sure that, in the long run, this matrix will be seen as a strong contribution to the pediatric chiropractic profession.

Sincerely,  
Elise Hewitt, DC, CST, DICCP, *Portland, Oregon*

Dear Editor:

I am writing to commend both the editorial board and the ICA on their bold and daring position on pediatric care for children and the publication of the *The Child Patient: A Matrix for Chiropractic Care*. I know that the ICA has always taken the lead in pediatric care and now we have a document that for the first time blends the science, the art and the philosophy of chiropractic and speaks to subluxation in children. It also further examines the physiology of the children and its role in subluxation. Kudos to ICA and the Pediatrics Council.

The *Matrix* has already been instrumental in my practice with respect to explaining the breadth and scope of chiropractic care for children...I have begun to give it to all new parents and have also given copies to the pediatricians who sometimes send children to me.

I have read the recent critique of the *Matrix* in *Dynamic Chiropractic* and find it almost laughable that other chiropractors who portend to take care of children would take exception to such a document. Firstly, they may claim to "speak" for those of us who practice wellness care, but they DO NOT speak for me. Also, I think their venue for response should have been in JCCP and not some slander piece in a chiropractic newspaper.

Dr. Fallon's attempt to categorize and outline pediatric development and subluxation side by side is brilliant. Every chiropractor should take hold of the *Matrix* and send it to every state board and every managed care company and every parent so that children can ALWAYS receive chiropractic care.

The ICA and the Pediatrics Council and Dr. Fallon should be commended for being the pioneers in chiropractic pediatrics the right way!

Sincerely,  
Greg Werner, DC, *New York, New York*

Dear Editor:

The *Matrix* design by Dr. Fallon is an excellent tool to be used by Doctors of Chiropractic who treat children, but also for other health care providers who are seeing the limitations of medical care for certain conditions. This important work gives a solid foundation for the subluxation complex and brings subtle conditions that stay under the radar of modern testing to the surface. It demonstrates the benefits to health only chiropractic can offer. We owe Dr. Fallon a great deal of gratitude. The insurance industry is demanding documentation and stripping benefits for children and chiropractic. We now have something solid to back up our

diagnosis and validate the care we provide children...

Yours sincerely,  
Jennifer T. Murphy, DC, DICCP, *Pink Hill, North Carolina*

Dear Editor:

It was a joy to read the *Matrix* on pediatric care recently published by the ICA Council on Chiropractic Pediatrics. Being in practice for 15 years, and providing chiropractic care for many children, it is great to have such a reference when communicating with medical professionals as well as third party payors.

Sincerely,  
Alaina Rowswell-Kulikowski, DC, DICCP, *New York, New York*

Dear Editor:

*The Child Patient: A Matrix for Chiropractic Care* by Dr. Joan Fallon is a landmark piece of literature that accurately and clearly describes the role of chiropractic in the pediatric population. Dr. Fallon has taken the "best evidence" available and created a template of care that is rationale, appropriate and realistic. As the chiropractic profession moves forward during this century and research continues to be engaged and scientific measurement evolves, the subluxation complex will become more clearly elucidated. It remains the goal of all doctors to "above all else do no harm" and in fact to be in a positive role and influence in the lives of our patients, including the children. The *Matrix* is a guide for us all and should be embraced by all doctors of chiropractic, the medical community as part of their referral process and the third party payor system.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gina M. Carucci, DC, MS, DAd., DICCP, *Wethersfeld, Connecticut*

Dear Choice Editor:

Just wanted to say we had a fabulous time in Maui! Wanted to also let ICA know that I think the *Matrix* is a well-thought out document. Some practitioners may see it as a document that would limit them, but upon careful examination they should realize it is not limiting at all. The *Matrix* allows for a wide variety of treatment schedules that may be required based on an individual child's needs due to injuries or illnesses that child may experience. Most importantly, it clearly states the need for wellness care.

Sincerely,  
Wesley Sheader, DC, DICCP, *Grand Junction, Colorado*

Dear Editor:

I'd like to commend Joan Fallon for her most recent publication, *The Child Patient: A Matrix for Chiropractic Care*. Dr. Fallon's effort to "initiate dialogue with respect to the care of the child by doctors of chiropractic (pg3, para1) gives DCs in the field a point of reference from which to defend the safety and appropriateness of chiropractic care for the pediatric population in an antagonistic healthcare, legislative and/or insurance environment.

This document clearly addresses the need for chiropractic care for children based on their age, specific anatomy and physiology, the existence of the vertebral subluxation and some of its causes, as well as suggests parameters for treatment protocols emphasizing that each case is individual, with compounding situational components and that each individual case merits evaluation when it deviates from the suggested norm...

Although over-utilization should be avoided, under-utilization of chiropractic services by our young is as serious a concern. The ability to provide chiropractic care to the pediatric population is frequently opposed by MD's in a legislative venue in the state of Connecticut and inability to obtain services is often imposed by financial constraints when insurance companies fail to provide services (including state agencies). As many doctors work diligently to change the paradigm in which chiropractic is delivered, those of us in offices that choose to continue to interface with insurers on our patient's behalf will find this document useful.

I look forward to the initiation of dialogue amongst my colleagues and the potential of a larger, long term collaborative effort to establish and publish official guidelines that are supported by best practice protocols and successful outcomes in the field.

Respectfully,  
Sharon Vallone, DC, FICCP  
Chairman of the Board, *Kentuckiana Childrens' Center, Hartford, Connecticut*

Dear Editor:

*The Child Patient: A Matrix for Chiropractic Care* is groundbreaking work in the realm of chiropractic pediatric guidelines...

From a philosophical standpoint the *Matrix* does a great job of setting up guidelines, road markers if you will based upon the reference materials found in chiropractic pediatrics literature and the unique and specialized care that the pediatric patient needs. The *Matrix*, I do not believe, was ever meant to replace the chiropractor's analysis of the patient's care nor does it tell the chiropractor how the patient's own unique Innate Intelligence will adapt to the chiropractor's care. It is not to be used as a cookbook in providing care. It does however, give strong, referenced guidelines that will help the chiropractor understand what to expect when rendering specific care to a specific pediatric patient.

The *Matrix* is another jewel in the crown of the ICA Pediatrics Council which has always been at the forefront of the profession in this unique and important field. I personally find the *Matrix* congruent with my understanding of the Philosophy of Chiropractic as well as a tool that I can use during my analysis of pediatric patients. I applaud the efforts of Dr. Fallon in the writing of this document and the ICA Pediatrics Council for publishing it.

Eric G. Russell, DC, DPhCS  
Vice Chair, *ICA Philosophy Council, Commerce, Texas*