

CHIROPRACTORS IN PRIMARY CARE



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**NEW MEXICO CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**



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New Mexico Chiropractic Association

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CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIANS IN PRIMARY CARE

On May 15, 2013, the Legislative Finance Committee submitted a report to the New Mexico Department of Health titled "Adequacy of New Mexico's Healthcare Systems Workforce." The report makes several important statements in its beginning. It states:

1. "New Mexico's supply of healthcare professionals, particularly in primary care, does not adequately address current needs, let alone those brought about by the ACA and Medicaid expansion, or longer-range demands from population growth and aging."
2. "The UNM Health Sciences Center estimates that the actual shortage is close to a total of 2000 physicians and roughly 400-600 primary care physicians."
3. "Nurse practitioners and physicians assistants could help mitigate the doctor shortage, but their numbers are also inadequate." The report does point out that "healthcare service delivery models must evolve to adequately address New Mexico's healthcare needs."

The chiropractic profession can be a powerful and effective team player in alleviating the primary care physician shortage. With additional training, the chiropractic physician is poised to enter that workforce in adequate numbers within the next few years to make a significant difference in reducing the shortage. New Mexico is known in the chiropractic community as a state progressive to the chiropractic profession, and chiropractic physicians from other states have been moving here over the past several years in unprecedented numbers to take advantage of this environment. As the following charts show, chiropractic education is similar to medical education and both are doctorate level programs. There are nearly 500 licensed chiropractors in the State of New Mexico, and about 30% have undergone the Advanced Practice Certification program, which has allowed them limited pain management prescriptive privileges and the use of additional pain management procedures that traditional chiropractors are not able to perform. Having chiropractors become primary care physicians with a greater range of prescriptive privilege will provide the public with more accessible primary care services. It will provide the consumer the experience of one-stop shopping. It will relieve the waiting time, often several months, for the patient to be seen, which presently is by multiple physicians.

The right choice is to legislate increased educational requirements and the authority for chiropractic physicians to serve the expanding needs of the citizens of the State of New Mexico.



Stephen Perlstein, DC, APC
Chair
NMCA PAC

Chiropractic College Directory – Worldwide

- RMIT University Melbourne School of Chiropractic, Osteopathy, and Complementary Medicine – *Australia*
- Macquarie University Centre for Chiropractic – *Australia*
- Aspeur/Feevale Rua Emillo Hauschild – *Brazil*
- Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College – *Canada*
- Universite Du Quebec A Trois-Rivieres – School of Chiropractic – *Canada*
- University of Southern Denmark – *Denmark*
- French Chiropractic Institute (Institut Franco-Europeen de Chiropratique) – *France*
- Tokyo College of Chiropractic – *Japan*
- HanSeo University, Department of Chiropractic – *Korea*
- *New Zealand* College of Chiropractic
- Technikon Natal Nattechnikon 6-20187 – *South Africa*
- Technikon Witwatersrand – *South Africa*
- Barcelona College of Chiropractic – *Spain*
- Anglo-European College of Chiropractic – *United Kingdom*
- Mctimoney Chiropractic College – *United Kingdom*
- University of Glamorgan School of Applied Sciences – *United Kingdom*
- University of Surrey European Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (EIHMS) – *United Kingdom*

Colleges accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education, an agency recognized by the US Department of Education

- Cleveland Chiropractic College – Kansas City
- Cleveland Chiropractic College – Los Angeles
- D'Youville College
- Life University College of Chiropractic
- Life Chiropractic College West
- Logan College of Chiropractic
- National University of Health Sciences
- New York Chiropractic College
- Northwestern Health Sciences University
- Palmer College of Chiropractic – Davenport Campus
- Palmer College of Chiropractic – Florida Campus
- Palmer College of Chiropractic – West Campus
- Parker University
- Sherman College of Chiropractic
- Southern California University of Health Sciences
- Texas Chiropractic College
- University of Bridgeport, College of Chiropractic
- University of Western States

These charts demonstrate that the pre-requisites for entrance into medical and chiropractic school, as well as the coursework of medical and chiropractic school, are similar.

Table 8. Comparison of the Pre-requisite Structure for Admission into Chiropractic and Medical School

	Chiropractic Semester Hours	Medical Semester Hours
Chemistry	12	16
Biology	6	8
Physics	6	8
English	6	8
Humanities	18	15
Totals	48	55

Table 9. Comparison of the Overall Curriculum Structure for Chiropractic and Medical Schools

	Chiropractic Schools		Medical Schools	
	Mean	Percentage	Mean	Percentage
Total Contact Hours	4822	100%	4667	100%
Basic Science Hours	1416	29%	1200	26%
Clinical Science Hours	3406	71%	3467	74%

Table 10. Comparison of Hours of Basic Sciences Education in Medical and Chiropractic Schools.

Subject	Chiropractic Schools		Medical Schools	
	Hours	% of Total	Hours	% of Total
Anatomy	566	41	367	31
Biochemistry	150	11	120	10
Microbiology	120	8	120	10
Public Health	70	5	289	23
Physiology	305	21	142	12
Pathology	205	14	162	14
Total Hours	1416	100	1200	100

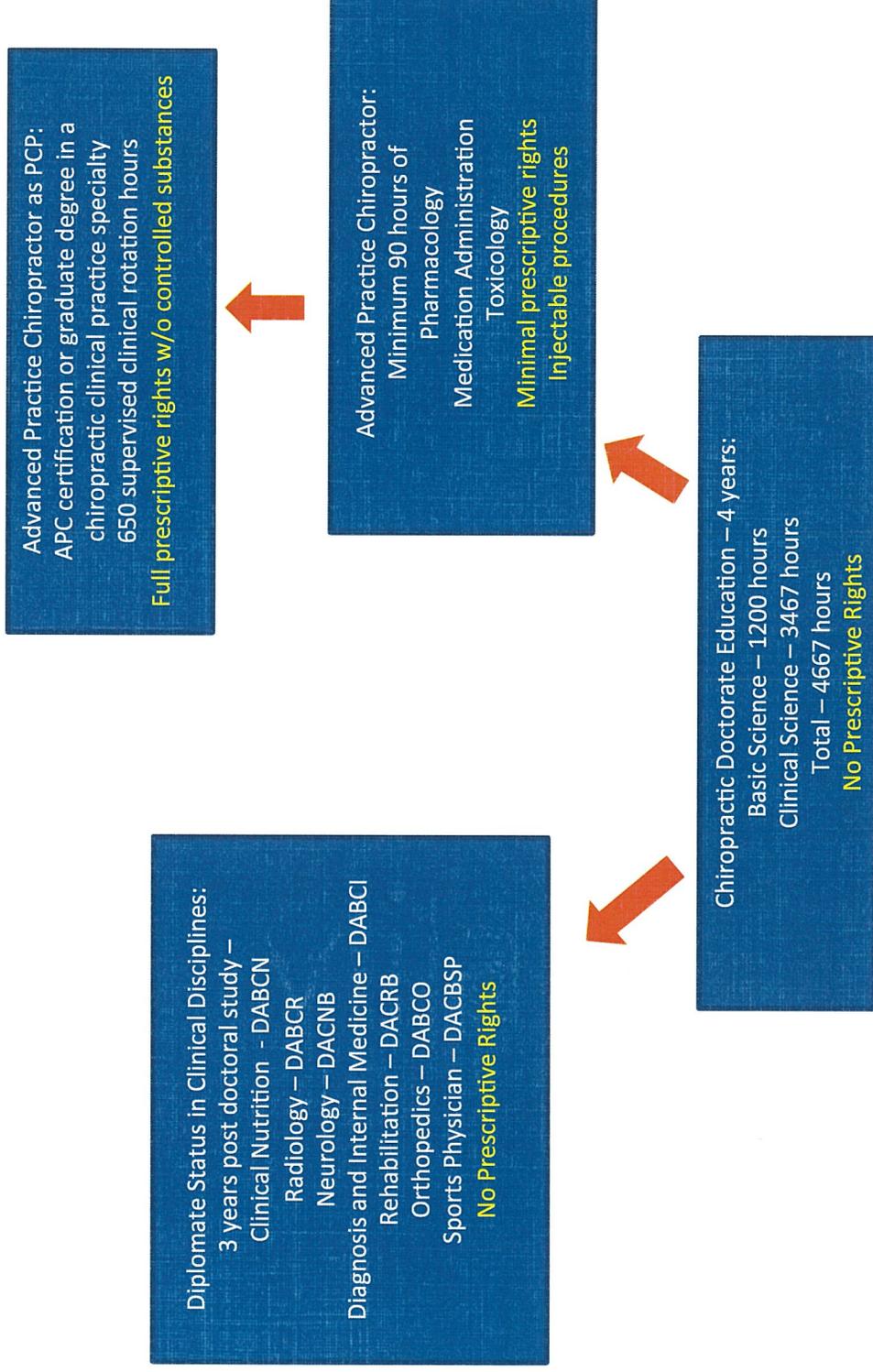
Source: Center for Studies in Health Policy, Inc., Washington, DC, Personal communication of 1995 unpublished data from Meredith Gonyea, PhD.

Altern Ther Health Med. 1998 Sep;4(5):64-75.

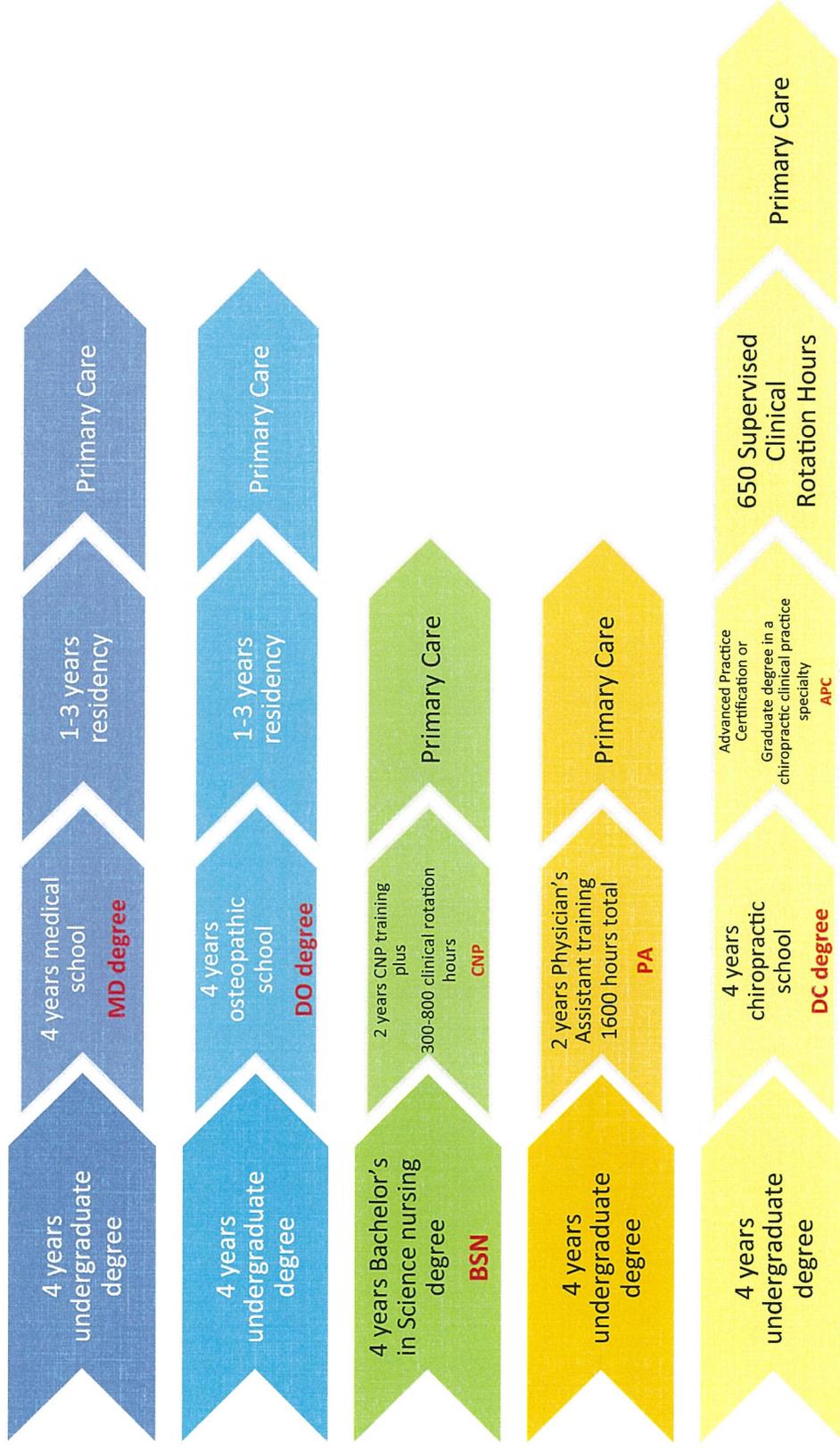
A Comparative Study of Chiropractic and Medical Education

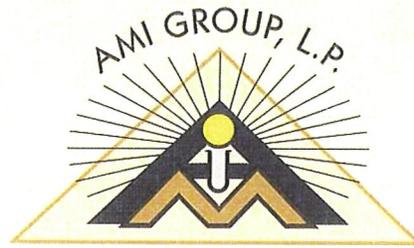
Coulter I. Adams A. Coggan P. Wilkes M. Gonyea M.

The Specialties of Chiropractic – Different Pathways for Different Services



Pathways to Primary Care





To Whom it May Concern:

Due to the acute shortage of primary care physicians in the State of New Mexico, and the fact that this shortage will only worsen with the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act of 2014, I wholeheartedly support chiropractic physicians with additional specialized training and clinical rotations becoming primary care physicians with prescription privileges. They are more than adequately competent to take on this position in the healthcare arena and will serve the citizens of New Mexico well.

I have worked with such chiropractors, having advanced training, and serving as Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) in the state of Illinois for the last 15 years. Scope of Practice and managed care laws in Illinois allow for such.

As the Medical Director of site #381, an IPA contracted with Blue Cross Blue Shields HMO-Illinois, I can attest that properly trained chiropractors, with advanced training, are and were capable of delivering the same high quality of care and safety as their conventional medical counterparts with MD/DO degrees. There has not been a single reported negative or inappropriate episode of care rendered by the chiropractic PCPs during this 15-year span.

Our results have been so outstanding that they have twice been published in the peer-reviewed journal JMPT (J. Manipulative Physiol Ther 2004; 27: 336-47 and 2007; 30: 263-269) and our IPA continues to earn Blue Ribbon status for measureable high quality of care as defined by the HIPPA standards under NCQA guidelines.

“Physical Medicine Management Since 1997”

I feel expansion of scope of practice for the select few chiropractors whom successfully complete additional specialized training as defined above is critical for us to meet the challenge that looms ahead with the shortage of future Primary Care Physicians.

I will be happy to provide additional details on my experience working with such chiropractors to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Sarnat MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "R" and "S".

Richard L. Sarnat MD
President and Chief Medical Officer AMI Group
Medical Director of site #381, BCBS HMOI

Figure 2. Primary Care: State Profiles

Percentage of population living in a designated primary care health professional shortage area, 2011

