

Suggested amendment, for HB 1221, Section 1. 3 e, to include the term “chiropractic physician.”

*e. Practitioners of chiropractic, signified by the letters “D.C.” or the words chiropractor, doctor of chiropractic, or chiropractic physician.*

The purpose of the suggested amendment is to maintain consistency with three additional legislative definitions, one of which is within the current ND Century Code (43-06-11), another is within proposed legislation (SB 2115), and the third is in Federal Statute (Social Security Act – Sec. 1861(r)).

As stated in the **ND Century Code, 43-06-11.**, “A licensed chiropractor may use the title doctor of chiropractic, chiropractor, chiropractic physician, or D.C.” Additionally, during this legislative session, **SB 2115** has passed the Senate and awaits consideration in the House. SB 2115, in part, appears to seek additional clarity for the public regarding the term physician. Section 2 of SB 2115 applies to **43-17-02. Persons exempt from the provisions of chapter.** Specifically, item 6 states, “*Doctors of chiropractic duly licensed to practice in this state pursuant to the statutes regulating such profession.*” Thus, the term “chiropractic physician” is included within ND Century Code in both 43-06-11 and 43-14-02. Omitting “chiropractic physician” from HB 1221 could thus create additional confusion if someone reviewing this language is not readily familiar with the other sections where it is permitted. A false impression that “chiropractic physician” is not permitted could lead to unnecessary complaints to the licensing board.

Lastly, the **Social Security Act, in Section 1861(r)**, defines the term physician as “*doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy (including osteopathic practitioner), doctor of dental surgery or dental medicine (within limitations in C.), doctor of podiatric medicine (within limitations in D.), doctor of optometry (within limitations of F.), or a chiropractor (within limitations of G.), legally authorized to practice by a State in which the individual performs this function.*”

The suggested amendment is consistent with current language, not only in ND Century Code, but also in Federal statute. Consistent language and definitions creates clarity and reduces confusion, which we believe is in keeping with the intent of HB 1221 for the purpose of maintaining clarity for the public when seeking health care in ND.