

Current as of April 2009

CERTIFIED CHIROPRACTIC ASSISTANTS

The Certified Chiropractic Assistant (CCA) may perform physiotherapy, electrotherapy, or hydrotherapy once he or she has received the certificate from the Board. The CCA scope of practice does not include performing physical examinations, taking initial histories, taking X-rays, interpretation of postural screening, doing manual muscle testing or performing osseous adjustments or manipulations. (See OAR 811-010-0110)

ANY TRAINED PERSON (INCLUDING CERTIFIED CAS) MAY PERFORM THE FOLLOWING

- 1) Clarify initial patient intake history, which includes recording or performing height, weight, blood pressure, temperature, and pulse rate.
 - 2) Record hand dynamometer readings.
 - 3) Demonstrate, teach, check and review with patients the doctor's prescribed exercises
 - 4) Facilitate provision of vitamins and/or supplements to patients as ordered by the doctor.
 - 5) Relay doctor's instructions to the patient on recommendations of nutritional needs.
 - 6) Facilitate provision of cervical pillow or support as recommended by the doctor.
 - 7) Make follow-up phone calls to patients on their progress as instructed by the doctor.
 - 8) Schedule return office visits for patients as instructed by the doctor.
 - 9) Schedule referrals as instructed by the doctor.
 - 10) Check patient's body fat percentage.
 - 11) Perform postural screenings under the on-site supervision of a chiropractor, but only a Chiropractor may interpret the information.
 - 12) May apply electrodes and conduct surface EMG testing, but the doctor has to interpret the results. (11/16/95, 7/18/96)
 - 13) This list is not intended to be all-inclusive.
- (Updated 11/20/08; 4/3/09)

COLONICS OR COLONIC THERAPY

The board determined that colonic therapy does not fall under hydrotherapy, and therefore is not an allowable procedure for CCAs to perform. The Board felt there were inherent risks, such as causing septic shock by rupturing the bowels. (9/28/07)

COMPUTERIZED MUSCLE AND INCLINOMETER TESTING

Certified Chiropractic Assistants may not do computerized muscle or inclinometer testing. The Board considers this to be part of the physical examination. (9/21/00)

(DIRECT) SUPERVISION OF CLINIC STAFF

The OBCE was asked if clinic staff could provide therapies in a business space next door to the clinic. The OBCE responded that the chiropractic assistant or staff person who is supervised needs to be in the same office space (defined as the same building or space contiguous) as the supervising doctor. OAR 811-035-0001 states, "Direct supervision" means that the licensed Chiropractic Physician is physically present in the clinic, is monitoring the activities of the supervisee in the clinic and is available to intervene, if necessary. (7/31/03)

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT FOR CA APPLICANTS

The Board reviewed this matter in light of a question from a licensee - May he interpret or provide an interpreter for non-English speaking CA applicants (to successfully complete the application and exam)? The OBCE surveyed other state health regulatory boards and determined that most other boards require that licensees be English-speaking proficient. Many of the other health-related licensing boards already have a policy, rule, or statute requiring applicant's to be English-speaking.

The Board determined that ALL (CA) applicants must be proficient in English in order to complete the chiropractic assistant licensing process in Oregon. (May 2008)

FELONY RECORD

The Board may deny a certified chiropractic assistant applicant certification with a felony conviction in areas that could be harmful to patients. ORS 684.100(1) states, "The board may refuse to grant a license...upon the following grounds: ... (d) A conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude."

Any applicant denied certification for this reason has a right to appeal and make his/her case in a contested case hearing. Upon review of the hearing officer's recommendations, the Board will then consider whether to approve the application, with or without conditions, or continue to deny.

IONTOPHORESIS

Chiropractic assistants may perform iontophoresis or phonophoresis under the doctor's supervision as a form of physiotherapy. (11/20/2008)

INITIAL TRAINING COURSES

Chiropractic Students Training To Be Certified CAs

Seventh (7th) quarter students and above may use the completed course in Physiological Therapeutics in lieu of the OBCE's Initial Training Program to be a certified chiropractic assistant. A copy of their transcript or a letter from the course instructor on college letterhead will be accepted as proof of completion of the course. See OAR 811-010-0045 (3) for other specifics. (4/15/93)

Training by the Supervising DC

Due to a need for more initial training courses for chiropractic assistants, the Board determined that a supervising DC may train his applying CA. The DC must be in attendance, and directly supervising the CA during the training.

The Board determined that the DC must keep adequate documentation and submit evidence to the Board that the CA was appropriately trained according to OAR 811-010-0110. The OBCE developed a form which will meet all the points of this policy and the administrative rule. The form is available by request at the administrative office.

The Supervising DC and chiropractic assistant should understand that this does NOT preclude certification by the OBCE. This process addresses the six-hour initial training only. Each

(excerpted from the OBCE's Policies and Practice Questions Guide)

assistant must still apply with the OBCE, take the open book exam and submit the required fees. OAR 811-010-0110 is still in effect and included in the chiropractic assistant application packet. (11/99)

Massage Therapists, Licensed (or Student)

The Board determined that a massage therapist must acquire the six-hour initial training because they are not trained in the hydrotherapy or electrotherapy. (11/99)

Physical Therapist Assistants

May PTAs submit their **physical therapist assistant** education in lieu of the OBCE's required six-hour initial training course to be licensed as a certified chiropractic assistant (CCA)?

The Board determined that PTA's will be waived from the six-hour initial training requirement if the PTA education was completed within the past five years, *or if they have been continuously employed in the past five years.* (11/99)

KINESIOTAPING METHOD

May a certified Chiropractic Assistant perform "Kinesio Taping"? The Kinesio Taping Method involves taping over and around muscles in order to assist and give support to, or prevent, over-contraction. The Board determined if the supervising DC is trained in the taping method, that he or she may also train the certified CA also to perform the method in the clinic, and only while the DC is on premise. The Board considers this a physiotherapy. (3/15/07)

PHONOPHORESIS (See Iontophoresis)

RANGE OF MOTION

A chiropractor submitted a letter inquiring whether chiropractic assistants or any "trained personnel" may perform range of motion tests. The Board determined that chiropractic assistants or other persons may not perform range of motion tests. According to the administrative rule 811-010-0110(7) for CAs, it is clear that "the scope of practice does not include performing physical examinations..." The performance of range of motion tests is definitely a physical examination. (12/99)

REFLEXOLOGY

The board was asked whether an UN-licensed person (either CA or DC) may provide reflexology treatment on chiropractic patients within the Oregon chiropractor's clinic. The OBCE responded that this is unlicensed treatment of the chiropractic patients in the chiropractic clinic.

The inquiring physician is also a naturopath and this may be allowed under his naturopathic license for his *naturopathic* patients. Given this difference in scope, the Board reminded the chiropractor to always remember to chart under *which* license these services are being provided.

In conclusion, *ONLY* a person actively licensed in Oregon as a DC, or Chiropractic Assistant (under the direct onsite supervision of an Oregon licensed chiropractor), may perform reflexology on the chiropractic patients. (11/20/08)

(excerpted from the OBCE's Policies and Practice Questions Guide)

REIKI

A Doctor of Chiropractic asked if his certified Chiropractic Assistant may practice Reike, a form of massage therapy, in his office without his supervision. The Board determined that the certified CA may perform this type of massage ONLY if the supervising DC is also Reike trained, and on premise to supervise. If the certified CA, trained in Reiki, is also an Oregon licensed massage therapist, then that is already allowed with the LMT scope of practice. (3/15/07)

TERMINOLOGY

The use of the terms for chiropractic assistants, “massage therapist” and “therapist” are misleading and should not be used, as per the Oregon Administrative Rule 811-015-0045. The Board also determined that the designation “CCA” or “CA” (see below) should be spelled out, since many people would not recognize the acronym.

The rule was changed so that “Certified” has now been dropped and we are now referring to them simply as “Chiropractic Assistants.” (9/16/2008)

WORKING FOR OTHER HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS

A certified chiropractic assistant (CCA) is only certified to work in a chiropractic office under the direction of a licensed chiropractic physician. Other health care providers may not have their personnel take the Board's CCA exam for certification in their office. (8/15/91)