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October 27, 2014

Ms. Kelly Caudill  
Executive Director  
Ohio State Chiropractic Board  
77 South High Street – 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ms. Caudill:

The National Board of Chiropractic Examiners is pleased to provide you with the following information concerning our Part II, Part III, and Part IV examinations that would address the evaluation and management of a person who sustains a concussion; i.e., an athlete, an individual in an automobile accident, an individual who sustained a fall, etc.

Additionally, during 2014 the NBCE has surveyed over 1,400 chiropractors in full-time practice representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia. When asked about their diagnosis and management of patients with a concussion or head injury during the past year, these chiropractors reported the following: they see these individuals one to six times per year; they made the initial diagnosis of "concussion or head injury" in 53% of the cases they saw and co-managed these cases 71% of the time.

This 2014 survey also found that chiropractors perform a focused orthopedic/neurologic examination on a daily basis and consider it to be a significant risk to the patient if it is not performed, or if it is performed improperly.

The following is a summary of the components of NBCE examinations in which a chiropractic student must answer questions addressing concussions, concussion-like symptoms, and related conditions. (The Part IV examination requires students to take case histories and to perform orthopedic and neurological examinations on standardized patients.)

Part II Exam

- Clinical Diagnosis Exam
  - Case History: Examinees answer questions on taking an appropriate case history in patients with various conditions.
  
- Neuromusculoskeletal Diagnosis Exam
  - Case History: Examinees answer questions on taking an appropriate case history in patients with neurological and musculoskeletal conditions.
  
  - Clinical Diagnosis: Examinees answer questions on clinical diagnosis including questions concerning diagnosis of central nervous system disorders.

- Chiropractic Practice Exam
  - Patient Care: Examinees answer questions on patient care including specific questions on case management of patients with a wide variety of health disorders.
- Associated Clinical Sciences Exam
  - Emergency Procedures: Examinees answer questions on emergency procedures, some of which specifically address head and spinal injuries.

Part III Exam

- Case History: Examinees answer questions in which they are asked to identify factors necessary for obtaining a case history and to apply this knowledge to a clinical picture. This includes chief complaints, present illness, past history of injury, etc.
- Physical Examination: Examinees answer questions in which they are asked to select appropriate physical examination procedures and to apply knowledge of these procedures to a clinical picture; this includes head and neck examination procedures.
- Neuromusculoskeletal Examination: Examinees answer questions in which they are asked to select appropriate neuromusculoskeletal examination procedures and to apply knowledge of these procedures to a clinical picture; this includes vision, balance, and coordination.

Part IV Exam

- Case Management
  - Case History Stations and Orthopedic/Neurological Testing Stations: Examinees interview standardized patients and perform orthopedic and neurological tests on standardized patients that portray physical signs and symptoms of a concussion.
  - Following each of the three case history stations and six orthopedic/neurological stations, examinees go to a post-encounter probe (PEP) station. In some PEP stations, examinees may answer questions pertaining to the appropriate management of a patient with a suspected concussion.

In conclusion, this correspondence is to attest that doctors of chiropractic in general, perform on a daily basis, orthopedic and neurological examinations on their patients. Moreover, the State of Ohio can be assured that doctors of chiropractic are, to a high NBCE standard, independently assessed on their primary care evaluation and management of patients with a concussion.

Sincerely,



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