



NEW ZEALAND
CHIROPRACTIC BOARD
TE POARI KAIKOROHITI O AOTEAROA

POLICY AND GUIDELINES:

THE USE OF CHIROPRACTOR TITLES STANDARD

August 2020

Associated Policy Documents

- Competency Standards
- Code of Ethics
- Scope of practice: Chiropractor

Revision Schedule

Version	Date Approved	Notes
One	Aug 2020	

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1. Introduction

This standard sets out the New Zealand Chiropractic Board (the Board) requirements relating to the use of chiropractic qualifications and/or titles by individuals who are not registered chiropractors, and who do not hold a current practising certificate.

This policy aims to improve consumer education and avoid the potential for confusion by the public over the use of Chiropractic titles used by registered chiropractors.

There are occasions when the perception by the public and some health professionals may be unclear as to whether the titles being used by individuals mean that person is a registered chiropractor. Clarity on the use of the titles for chiropractors is essential in order to avoid any misunderstanding by the public about the qualifications and registration status of persons using such titles.

The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA) provides a framework for the regulation of health practitioners in order to protect the public where there is a risk of harm from professional practice. The HPCA Act is New Zealand law, and the Board is the authority, which oversees its application for chiropractors.

2. New Zealand law

In New Zealand titles of regulated health practitioners are protected by the HPCA Act. The relevant legal documents and following subsections pertaining to this standard are:

- [The Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003](#)

This states in Key Provisions (Part 1, section 7):

Unqualified person must not claim to be a health practitioner

- (1) *A person may only use names, words, titles, initials, abbreviations, or descriptions stating or implying that the person is a health practitioner of a particular kind if the person is registered, and is qualified to be registered, as a health practitioner of that kind.*
- (2) *No person may claim to be practising a profession as a health practitioner of a particular kind or state or do anything that is calculated to suggest that the person practises or is willing to practise a profession as a health practitioner of that kind unless the person— (a) is a health practitioner of that kind; and (b) holds a current practising certificate as a health practitioner of that kind.*
- (5) *Every person commits an offence punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding \$10,000 who contravenes this section.[1]*

3. Code of practice and use of the term(s)

In New Zealand the title chiropractor along with associated abbreviations and descriptions of chiropractic, may only be used by persons who are registered, and qualified to be registered, under the HPCA Act as a chiropractor with the Board.

A person who is registered but does not have a current annual practising certificate can use the title chiropractor but may not in any manner imply they are able to currently practice as a chiropractor.

4. Guidance

- A retired chiropractor who is no longer registered, may be at risk of breaching section 7(1) of the HPCA Act if they are using any term or title which appears to confirm, to promote themselves as providing chiropractic services.
- An unregistered individual using their chiropractor qualification should ensure they do not use the title 'chiropractor' or say or do anything to imply registration.
- An unregistered individual using their chiropractic qualification may be at risk of breaching section 7(1) of the HPCA Act, if they use their qualification to provide or to promote chiropractic services, or to perform tasks commonly associated with chiropractic services, and they do not make it clear that they are not a registered chiropractor.
- An unregistered individual using their chiropractic qualification must ensure that members of the public receiving or seeking their services understand they are not registered with the Board, and care should also be taken to ensure they are not otherwise perceived to be a registered chiropractor because of their role.
- A registered chiropractor who does not hold a current practising certificate, may use their chiropractic qualification provided they do not claim to be practising as a chiropractor, or say or do anything to suggest that they are practising as a chiropractor.