

## CAN I PROVIDE CARE TO MY FAMILY MEMBERS?

The Board is cognisant of the benefits of Chiropractic care and does not prohibit the treatment of whānau and family members. This is divergent from most other health professions where it is recommended that the treatment of self and family members is to be avoided or is prohibited.

There are potential problems when providing care to family members including power imbalance, the blurring of professional boundaries and possible impairment of professional judgment and clinical decision-making impacting on diagnosis and treatment decisions. It is important that any diagnosis and/or treatment provided to whānau and family is properly documented.

## CAN I PROVIDE ACC CARE TO MY FAMILY MEMBERS

ACC's position statement, [ACC Position Statement on Treatment of Family Members](#), clearly outlines that you **cannot claim ACC payments for the treatment of whānau and family members**. In accordance with the Scope of Practice, Code of Ethics and Competency Standards, it is your responsibility as a Chiropractor to understand and abide by ACC's position.

### Who does this refer to:

- your spouse or partner, parent, child, sibling:
- members of your whānau or extended family, or your spouse or partner's extended whānau or family:
- other individuals you have a personal or close relationship with.

### Exceptional circumstances

ACC acknowledges there are exceptional circumstances where the treatment of family may be unavoidable and these circumstances are outlined in the position paper. If you believe exceptional circumstances apply and you choose to treat a family member, your consideration must be documented and clearly address the issues and requirements set by ACC.

### Considerations

The Accident Compensation Act 2001 states that ACC is liable to pay costs when the treatment:

- is necessary and appropriate:
- is performed only on the number of occasions necessary:
- is given at a time or place appropriate for that purpose.

Where ACC identifies you have invoiced for treatment of a family member where exceptional circumstances are not met, or there is insufficient clinical rationale documented for the treatment provided, they may seek reimbursement of the costs.

ACC may also notify the Chiropractic Board if they consider there is a potential risk of harm under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.



## Not sure what to do?

Click here to view [ACC Position Statement on Treatment of Family Members](#).

If you are uncertain about these criteria or consider that you may require another opinion, you should contact your local ACC Engagement and Performance Manager. Contact details can be found on the ACC website [www.acc.co.nz/for-providers/provide-services/engagement-performance-managers](http://www.acc.co.nz/for-providers/provide-services/engagement-performance-managers)

As per the Board's email to you on 11 March 2019, it is important you familiarise yourself with ACC's position statements which can be found in the resource section of ACC's website [www.acc.co.nz](http://www.acc.co.nz) or by clicking on the following position statement links.

- [Same Day Allied Health Treatment](#)
- [Treating clients in a sports setting](#)
- [Seeking payment for Treatment by Allied Health students](#)
- [Treatment of Family](#)
- [Treatment of Colleagues](#)