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British Chiropractic Association comment on NICE guidelines regarding non-specific low back pain

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has published new guidelines to improve the early management of persistent non-specific low back pain.

The guidelines recommend what care and advice the NHS should offer to people affected by low back pain.

NICE assessed the effectiveness, safety and cost-effectiveness of available treatments and one recommendation is to offer a course of manual therapy, including spinal manipulation, spinal mobilisation and massage. This treatment may be provided by a range of health professionals, including chiropractors.

Spinal manipulation is part of the package of care that chiropractors offer and, by including this within the guidelines, it will hopefully increase accessibility to these beneficial treatments.

Tony Metcalfe, President of the British Chiropractic Association comments:

“Chiropractic has a key role to play within this integrated framework and there can be no doubt that the provision of chiropractic care ultimately increases patient choice.

“Chiropractors are primary health care practitioners, regulated by law, who provide a package of care that can work independently, or alongside treatment prescribed by NHS doctors and other health care professionals.

“Chiropractic is a mature profession, and the care given has been the subject of numerous research studies, including three funded by the Medical Research Council.

“The British Chiropractic Association already has first hand experience of how chiropractic has been integrated into the NHS to great benefit, with a number of BCA chiropractors who are working closely with or have contracts with Primary Care Trusts.”

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<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG88>

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