



Referral Patterns and Attitudes of Primary Care Physicians Towards Chiropractors

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	PCP to PCP	PCP to Chiropractor
Do you recommend patients contact the doctor directly? (informal referral)	1%	88%
Do you initiate a formal referral?	99%	12%
A sending reason for referral is included	100%	90%
I have obtained clinical information via curbside consultation	97%	8%

87% of PCP's have patients who request a chiropractic referral

26% of PCP's had formally referred to a chiropractor

Chiropractic care has been established as one of the most effective and safe treatment options for patients with musculoskeletal complaints. This research article found that nearly all (87%) PCP's have had patients request a chiropractic referral. Yet, only a fraction of those physicians have made a "formal" chiropractic referral. We feel fortunate to have referral relationships with many local primary care physicians. Interdisciplinary cooperation and coordination of care are extremely important aspects of our practice. Providing case notes, as well as monthly research updates, are just a few ways our office communicates with our local referral partners.

Previous research studies have shown that patients receive the best outcomes for musculoskeletal complaints when their primary care physician and chiropractor are working together. We have seen this to be true in many cases in our office.

Please let us know any specific items which can facilitate better communication between our offices. Additionally, we are always available by phone for a "curbside consultation" for any musculoskeletal questions you may have.

"Chiropractic care was found to be one of the most frequently sought after alternative care, and evinced a high level of patient satisfaction..."

"The common reasons for referring a patient to a chiropractor were back or neck pains, unresponsive chronic pain, fibromyalgia, and musculoskeletal conditions."

"...the lack of direct formalized referral relationships between PCP's and chiropractors has implications for efficiency, continuity, quality, and patient safety in the health care delivery system."

We believe in creating a healthier community. We believe patients have better outcomes when physicians work together. Let's build a healthier tomorrow.

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