



The Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa

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Dear Chiropractic Practitioner,

UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT: USE OF INJECTION THERAPY BY CHIROPRACTORS

Regulation 27, Government Notice R127, published on 12 February 2001, states:

Subject to the provisions of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, Act 101 of 1965, a practitioner registered as a chiropractor or osteopath -

- (a) *may, for the purposes of his or her practice and within the scope of practice relevant to his or her profession, possess or have under his or her control or prescribe for a patient or supply to a patient -*
- (i) *vitamins;*
 - (ii) *substances that are intended exclusively for application to the skin; or*
 - (iii) *minerals and nutritional supplements;*
- (b) *may for the purposes of his or her practice, manufacture or prepare any form of any substance, preparation or mixture thereof.*

As a result of the abovementioned Regulation, read together principally with the Section 22A of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, Act 101 of 1965, the Professional Board for Chiropractic and Osteopathy, after consultation with the relevant stakeholders and due consideration of all aspects relating the matter, has deemed the use of **any** Injection Therapy, in particular the practice of injecting diclofenac sodium (Voltaren), a Schedule 3 medication, to be **unprofessional conduct** for Chiropractors:

1. Injection Therapy is not consistent with the provision that Chiropractors are limited to substances that are intended exclusively for application to the skin; and
2. Injection Therapy is not indicated for emergency treatment of muscular skeletal conditions; and
3. The sale, possession of and use, by injection, of diclofenac sodium (Voltaren) by Chiropractors is unlawful in the light of the provisions of Section 22A of the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act, Act 101 of 1965.

The following activities are therefore strictly prohibited for Chiropractors:

1. Using Injection Therapy as part of any treatment protocol;
2. Promoting the use of Injection Therapy to other Chiropractors or Chiropractic learners or Chiropractic Interns;
3. Providing education or training in the use of Injection Therapy to Chiropractors.

Should Council become aware of any Chiropractor engaging in any of the abovementioned prohibited activities or any other activity relating to the use of Injection Therapy, such Chiropractor shall face disciplinary action in terms of Sections 23-30 of the Allied Health Professions Act 63 of 1982.

Yours faithfully,

DR LOUIS MULLINDER
REGISTRAR

Ensuring quality complementary and alternative healthcare of choice