

RESTRICTED THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTIONS

Policy

DEFINITIONS

Terms in this document, for which definitions are not provided in the text or may not be self-evident or for which usage at ACC may differ to that in other higher education institutions are as follows:

Chiropractic Centre: A Service Learning Environment provided by the College, either directly or through a relationship with a third-party authorised by the College, for the provision of chiropractic care by Student Interns under the supervision of Chiropractic Supervisors.

Chiropractic Supervisor: Chiropractors who are contracted or otherwise authorised to supervise and/or assess ACC students within the College's SLEs and WIL environments. In particular within the College's Chiropractic Centres.

Cultural Safety: Commonly understood as 'an environment that is spiritually, socially and emotionally safe, as well as physically safe for people; where there is no assault challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are and what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience of learning together' (Williams, R. 1999). Refer to the College's *Cultural Safety Policy and Cultural Safety Procedure*.

Internal Adjustment/Manipulation (IA): Therapeutic assessment or treatment techniques involving the insertion of a finger or instrument into a body cavity for the purpose of examination, mobilisation, adjustment or treatment of musculoskeletal or related conditions. This includes, but is not limited to, procedures performed **per rectum (PR), per vagina (PV), intra-orally, or intra-aurally**.

Service Learning Environments (SLEs): An ACC Chiropractic Centre or other Chiropractic Practicum/WIL Environment where students, under the guidance of Chiropractic or other authorised health professional supervisors develop their knowledge and skills in Chiropractic practice.

WIL (Work Integrated Learning): "any arrangement where students undertake learning in a work context as part of their course requirements. WIL can be undertaken as part of coursework or research training." (Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, 2022) WIL activities may include: professional workplace placements (also known as internships, clinical placements, fieldwork, practicums) whether local, interstate or international, online or virtual WIL (e.g. Telehealth) with real clients or industry input, industry-partnered projects in the classroom that involve industry, community or professional partners, a simulated work environment with industry input, consultation or assessment, or activities in other contexts involving industry or community partners.' May also be synonymous with 'Service Learning'.

PURPOSE

ACC is committed to maintaining safe, evidence-informed clinical education and practice environments. This policy establishes ACC's position regarding invasive therapeutic interventions within its educational programs and service learning environments. This Policy supports the College's obligations under the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA) Accreditation Standards for Chiropractic Programs, particularly Standard 1 (Public Safety), Standard 3 (Program of Study), and Standard 5 (Student

Assessment), by ensuring that clinical education prioritises patient safety, evidence-informed practice, and appropriate graduate competencies.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all College staff, contractors and enrolled students involved in the delivery, supervision or undertaking of learning and teaching activities, clinical education, or Work Integrated Learning (WIL).

The Policy applies to all relevant activities conducted:

- within ACC-operated Chiropractic Centres and other Service Learning Environments (SLEs); and
- within external SLEs, clinical placements, or WIL environments approved by the College.

This Policy must be read in conjunction with:

- the Informed Consent Policy and Procedure;
- the Cultural Safety Policy and Procedure;
- the Code of Conduct; and
- other relevant clinical education, governance and professional practice policies.

Where there is any inconsistency between this Policy and supporting procedures, educational materials, or external placement practices, this Policy prevails in relation to ACC students, staff and approved learning environments.

POLICY

1. Commitment to Safe Clinical Practice

ACC is committed to providing a safe, evidence-informed and professionally appropriate learning environment. Clinical education and practice activities conducted under the auspices of the College must align with contemporary professional standards, regulatory expectations, patient safety principles, and the educational objectives of accredited chiropractic programs.

2. Restricted Therapeutic Interventions

Internal Adjustment per rectum and per vagina are not permitted within ACC-operated clinical facilities, Service Learning Environments, or other College-approved learning and teaching activities.

Accordingly, Internal Adjustment (PR and PV):

- must not be performed by ACC students;
- must not be performed by ACC-employed or contracted clinical supervisors within ACC learning environments;
- must not be taught as a practical clinical skill;
- must not be included as an assessable competency or learning outcome; and
- is not considered an inherent requirement for graduation from an ACC chiropractic program.

3. Educational Context

The College may provide students with information regarding the existence, proposed clinical application, evidence base, professional considerations, and medico-legal issues associated with Internal Adjustment (PR and PV) as part of broader professional education.

Such educational content does not constitute endorsement of these interventions and does not authorise students to perform them.

4. External Clinical Learning Environments

Students undertaking external clinical placements, outreach activities, or other approved WIL experiences may encounter practitioners who utilise Internal Adjustment (PR and PV) as part of their practice.

Students may observe such procedures where appropriate and permitted by the placement provider but must not perform, assist with, or be assessed on these interventions.

5. Permitted Assessment and Therapeutic Procedures

Nothing in this Policy prevents the teaching, learning or performance of intraoral, intraaural, or other assessment and therapeutic procedures that:

- are included within approved curricula;
- are supported by appropriate supervision, training and informed consent processes; and
- comply with relevant professional, regulatory and College requirements.

6. Compliance

All staff, contractors and students must comply with this Policy.

Failure to comply may result in action under relevant College policies, including student conduct, staff conduct, professional practice, placement, grievance, or disciplinary policies and procedures.

IMPLEMENTATION and MONITORING

The Academic Dean is responsible for oversight of this Policy.

The Program Coordinator – Chiropractic Practice is responsible for implementing this Policy within ACC-operated clinical facilities, Service Learning Environments (SLEs), and Work Integrated Learning (WIL) activities, including ensuring that students, staff, contractors and clinical supervisors are appropriately informed of its requirements.

Any actual or suspected breach of this Policy must be reported to the Academic Dean and managed in accordance with relevant College policies and procedures.

The Academic Dean will monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this Policy through the College's quality assurance processes and will report any significant compliance, risk, or governance matters to the Academic Board.

POLICY REVIEW

The ACC's *Restricted Therapeutic Interventions Policy* is normally reviewed every three years.

ACC may review this policy earlier where required by legislative, regulatory, accreditation or operational changes.

RELATED POLICY DOCUMENTS

- Staff Induction and Professional Development
- Marketing, Advertising and Communication Policy and Procedures
- Code of Conduct Policy
- Staff Performance and Disciplinary Policy and Procedures
- Student Grievance and Appeals Policy and Procedures
- Staff Grievance and Appeals Policy and Procedures
- Critical Incident Policy and Procedures
- Clinical Policies and Procedures including: Caring for Children, Informed Consent, Cultural Safety Policy and Procedure.



VERSION CONTROL

Document: A027 Restricted Therapeutic Interventions Policy		
Responsible Officers: Clinical Coordinator		
Initially Endorsed by: Academic Board		Date: 19 July 2023
Reviewed and Approved by: Board of Directors		Date: 25 July 2023
Reviewed and Approved by: Academic Board		Date: 8 July 2026
HESF	3.1 Course Design 5.4 Delivery with Other Parties 6.2 Corporate Monitoring and Accountability 6.3 Academic Governance 7.2 Information for Prospective and Current Students	3.1.3 5.4.1 5.4.2 6.2.1a 6.3.1a 6.3.1c 6.3.1d 7.2.2c 7.2.2d
Version: V2.0	Replaces Version(s): V1.0	Next Review: July 2029
Nature of change	July 2026 - Renamed Invasive Therapeutic Interventions Policy to Restricted Therapeutic Interventions Policy to better reflect the scope and intent of the policy. - Restructured and simplified the policy to distinguish policy requirements from explanatory and educational content. - Clarified the College's position regarding restricted therapeutic interventions within ACC-operated and approved learning environments. - Confirmed that Internal Adjustment (PR and PV) is not taught, assessed, or an inherent requirement for graduation from ACC chiropractic programs. - Clarified the circumstances in which students may observe, but not perform or assist with, restricted interventions in external WIL environments. - Updated governance, implementation and monitoring responsibilities to align with ACC's contemporary policy framework. - Streamlined definitions and policy language for improved clarity and consistency. - Added references to the CCEA Accreditation Standards for Chiropractic Programs to strengthen alignment with accreditation requirements.	