



## Career Guide

# Chiropractic Medicine

## Profession Description

Chiropractic Medicine is a licensed health care profession that emphasizes the body's ability to heal itself. Chiropractic medicine focuses on the relationship between the body's main structures – the skeleton, the muscles and the nerves—and the patient's health.

Chiropractors believe that health can be improved and preserved by making adjustments to these structures, particularly to the spinal column. They do not prescribe drugs or perform surgical procedures, although they do refer patients for these services if they are medically indicated. Treatment typically involves manual therapy, often including spinal manipulation. Other forms of treatment, such as exercise and nutritional counseling, may be used as well.

## Academic Requirements

- Doctor of Chiropractic (D.C.) degree
- Pass the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners exam
- Many states also require chiropractors to pass an exam about state-specific laws, and all states require practicing chiropractors to take continuing education classes.

## Professional Associations

- American Chiropractic Association (<https://www.acatoday.org/>)
- The Association of Chiropractic Colleges (<https://www.chirocolleges.org/>)

## Further Resources

- Glass Door (<https://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm>)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://www.bls.gov/>)
- Explore Health Careers (<https://explorehealthcareers.org/>)
- NIH (<https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/chiropractic-in-depth>)
- NU Career Guides (<https://careers.northeastern.edu/group/career-guides/>)

## Related Fields

- Alternative Medicine
- Naturopathic Medicine