



**General
Chiropractic
Council**

The General Chiropractic Council
Guidance for Registrants:

Claims made for the Chiropractic Vertebral Subluxation Complex

Guidance

In effect from: 01 January 2026

GCC Guidance for Registrants

The General Chiropractic Council's Guidance for Registrants is supplementary to the Code of Professional Practice and supports registrants in meeting the Principles and Standards in the Code.

Whilst there is an expectation that guidance will be followed unless there is a good reason not to do so, there may be other acceptable ways to secure the same outcome required under the Code of Professional Practice.

If a chiropractor's Fitness to Practise is questioned, both the Code of Professional Practice and the relevant supplementary guidance will be considered to assess any breach of professional standards.

Each year (as part of the process to retain registration) all chiropractors are asked to confirm that they are keeping up to date with the supplementary guidance published by the GCC.

The Purpose of this Guidance

This guidance will assist registrants to meet the expectations of the Code of Professional Practice in relation to Claims made for the Chiropractic Vertebral Subluxation Complex.

Publication History

This edition published December 2025 and comes into effect 01 January 2026.

Changelog

Date	Change						
December 2025	This edition redesigned for consistency with other guidance. References to principles and standards within the Code (2016) updated to their equivalents in the Code of Professional Practice: <table border="1" data-bbox="472 1576 1385 1693"><thead><tr><th>2016 Code</th><th>Code of Professional Practice (2026)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Standard C5</td><td>Standard D11</td></tr><tr><td>Standard B3</td><td>Standard C5</td></tr></tbody></table>	2016 Code	Code of Professional Practice (2026)	Standard C5	Standard D11	Standard B3	Standard C5
2016 Code	Code of Professional Practice (2026)						
Standard C5	Standard D11						
Standard B3	Standard C5						
February 2017	Second edition published.						
May 2010	First edition published, Revised August 2010.						

Guidance

1. The chiropractic vertebral subluxation complex is an historical concept, but it remains a theoretical model.
2. It is not supported by any clinical research evidence that would allow claims to be made that it is the cause of disease.
3. Chiropractors are reminded that:
 - When **practising**, they must

Standard D11:



use evidence-based practice to select and implement safe, appropriate, care that meets the needs and preferences of the patient. This could include:

- manual techniques;
- rehabilitative interventions;
- psychologically informed approaches;
- education and advice.

You must encourage and support patients to self-manage their health, signposting them to relevant resources.

- When **advertising**, they must

Standard C5:



when telling people about your services, ensure that all information is factual, verifiable, does not mislead, or exploit their vulnerability or lack of health knowledge. Where you delegate this, the accountability sits with you.

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