FOREWORD

The report of the Global Commission on Education of Health Professionals for the 21st Century (1), calls for a new era of professional education where the training of health care providers is focused towards empowering graduates to possess the knowledge, skills and attitudes that allow them to best serve the shifting needs of patients and society.

The purpose of this document is to describe the graduate competencies required of the students of the Barcelona College of Chiropractic (BCC) to successfully complete the programme of study. The new framework and related competencies evolved through a process of consultation and revision with key stakeholders. In addition, the new competencies build on the college’s previous competency document of September 2009, which has guided the activities of the Curriculum Development and Review Committee (CDRC) to date. The new competency framework adopted by the CDRC relies to a substantial extent on the “CanMEDS 2005 Framework” (2) whilst also making use of other similar frameworks for outcomes-based education. The decision to adapt the CanMEDS framework was based on the understanding that the framework is evidence-based, needs-driven and outcome measured (3). In addition, the framework uses a common language that is shared across most other healthcare professions, which supports inter-professional collaboration (4).

Competence in this framework focuses on Benner’s Novice to Expert level of competent which views being competent as having consistent, planned, and predictable patient care. Benner suggests their are five levels of skill acquisition: novice, advanced beginner, competent, proficient, and expert. Benner states “the competent stage is most pivotal in clinical learning, because the learner must begin to recognize patterns and determine which elements of the situation warrant attention and which elements of the situation can be ignored” (5). In addition, a competency is defined as a measurable set of skills, knowledge, problem-solving abilities and attitudes in controlled representations of professional practice when performing at maximum levels of ability (6). Within the framework, competencies are defined through a process of identifying the core abilities involved by translating the available evidence on effective practice into educationally useful elements (2). Knowledge, skills, and attitudes are condensed into meta-competencies, which are in turn distributed into seven roles that represent professional practice.

The framework requires a BCC chiropractic graduate to be competent in the following seven distinct but related roles –

- Competent Chiropractor,
- Communicator,
- Collaborator,
- Manager,
- Health Advocate,
- Scholar and
- Professional.

The seven roles for BCC graduates include the central role of Chiropractic Graduate, which integrates the roles of Communicator, Collaborator, Manager, Advocate, Scholar, and Professional. While these roles are represented in the framework as discrete entities, it is recognised that the roles may at times overlap within the context of chiropractic practice and that, in order to practice safely and effectively as a chiropractor, competence in all seven roles needs to be demonstrated. The framework is organised into five levels. These include:
1. Roles
2. Definitions
3. Descriptions
4. Key Competencies
5. Enabling Competencies

In relation to the proposed framework, key competencies are defined as those important outcome objectives that are to be achieved and enabling competencies are the sub-elements, or key ingredients needed in order to achieve the key competencies.

The members of the BCC’s CDRC believe that as well as providing a key point of reference for further development of the curriculum, these competencies also provide the profession in Spain with a benchmark for safe and effective practice for an entry level chiropractor. Finally, this should be seen to be a “living” document that is at an early stage of development. The intention is to increasingly incorporate it into teaching, learning, training and assessment at the BCC. It is expected that it will be modified based on experience and based on the changing needs of patients and society.

References –


1. COMPETENT CHIROPRACTOR

Section 1.01 Definition

Competent chiropractors integrate all of the ChiroComp Roles, applying scientific and clinical knowledge, clinical skills, patient preferences and professional attitudes in their provision of care aimed towards optimising the health of patients. Competent Chiropractor is the central role in the ChiroComp framework.

Section 1.02 Description

Chiropractic graduates possess a body of knowledge, clinical skills, procedural skills, and professional attitudes, which are directed towards providing individualised and empathetic patient-centred care.

They apply these competencies to locate and interpret clinical studies and information, develop working hypothesis, make appropriate clinical decisions, and deliver quality chiropractic care. They do so within the scope of their discipline, whilst reflecting upon one’s own limitations, the health care setting and the patient’s preferences and context. Their care is characterised by evidence informed, ethical, and resource efficient chiropractic practice as well as with effective communication in partnership with patients, other health care providers and the community. The role of the Competent Chiropractor describes the professional role of the chiropractor and draws on the competencies associated with these roles: Communicator, Collaborator, Manager, Health Advocate, Scholar and Professional.

Section 1.03 Key Competencies

As chiropractors, BCC graduates are able to:

CHI 1. Function effectively as a health care professional, integrating all competencies to provide optimal, ethical, individualised and empathetic chiropractic care.

CHI 1.1 Effectively perform a consultation, including the utilisation of well documented assessments and recommendations in written and/or verbal form.

CHI 1.2 Identify and appropriately respond to relevant ethical issues arising in patient care.

CHI 1.3 Effectively and appropriately prioritise professional duties when faced with multiple patients and problems.

CHI 1.4 Demonstrate compassionate and patient-centred care.

CHI 1.5 Recognise and respond to the ethical dimension in health-related decision-making:

- Clear history taking and communication with patients, their families and other carers and seeks information from other sources.
- Clarifies the patient’s expectations and requests for the encounter and elicits information related to the biopsychosocial model of health.
- Elicit a relevant, concise and accurate history from the patient and other sources if required.

CHI 2. Develop and maintain clinical knowledge, chiropractic skills and attitudes appropriate to their practices.

CHI 2.1 Possess knowledge and understanding of the normal structure and function of the human body and the interactions between body and mind.

CHI 2.2 Apply knowledge of the biopsychosocial model of health relevant to patient care.

CHI 2.3 Apply lifelong learning skills of the Scholar Role to implement a personal program to keep up
to date, and enhance areas of professional competence.

CHI 2.4 Contribute to the enhancement of quality care and patient safety in their practice, integrating the best available evidence, practitioner experience and patient preferences.

CHI 2.5 Conduct an effective, appropriate, and timely physical examination.

CHI 2.6 Demonstrate effective, appropriate, and timely performance of clinical impression procedures relevant to their practice.

CHI 2.7 Demonstrate effective, appropriate, and timely performance of referral relevant to patient care.

CHI 2.8 Ensure appropriate informed consent is obtained.

CHI 2.9 Appropriately document, secure and where appropriate, share information related to procedures performed and their outcomes.

CHI 2.10 Ensure adequate follow-up and continuity of care is arranged for procedures performed.

CHI 3. Perform a complete and appropriate assessment and care of a patient following the biopsychosocial model of health.

CHI 3.1 Effectively identify and explore issues to be addressed in a patient encounter, including the patient’s context and preferences.

CHI 3.2 Effectively perform a patient history that is relevant, concise, and accurate given the context and patient preferences.

CHI 3.3 Perform a focused physical examination that is relevant and accurate.

CHI 3.4 Select appropriate investigative methods in a resource-effective and ethical manner.

CHI 3.5 Demonstrate effective clinical skills, problem solving and judgment to address patient problems, including interpreting available data and integrating information to generate clinical impressions and care plans.

CHI 3.6 Interpret clinical information and develop a working hypothesis for appropriate clinical decisions and to deliver adequate and safe chiropractic care.

CHI 3.7 Base care on a comprehensive understanding of the biological, psychological and social characteristics of neuromusculoskeletal conditions, which commonly present to chiropractors.

CHI 3.8 Provide patients with the option of care, supported by self-care education, aimed towards optimizing neuromusculoskeletal function and improved health-related quality of life.

CHI 4. Seek appropriate consultation from other health professionals, recognizing the limits of their expertise.

CHI 4.1 Demonstrate insight into their own limitations of expertise via reflection and self-assessment.

CHI 4.2 Demonstrate effective, appropriate, and timely consultation of another health professional as needed for optimal patient care.

CHI 4.3 Arrange appropriate follow-up and continuity of care for a patient and their family.

CHI 5. Effectively communicate clinical impressions, management plans and chiropractic principles and theory to the patient and the general public.

CHI 5.1 Implement an effective care plan in collaboration with a patient and their family.

CHI 5.2 Demonstrate effective, appropriate, and timely application of preventive and therapeutic interventions relevant to chiropractic practice.

CHI 5.3 Ensure appropriate informed consent is obtained.

CHI 6. Locate, appraise and apply the best available evidence in decision making and planning of the patient care.

CHI 7. Recognise the importance and maintain a commitment to life-long learning, responding to evolving and changing health needs of patients and the community throughout their professional careers.

CHI 8. Effectively organise a sustainable clinical practice in the best interest of patients.

CHI 9. Appraise, reinforce, and when necessary modify disease prevention and health promoting beliefs and practices for patients.
2. COMMUNICATOR

Section 2.01 Definition

As Communicators, chiropractors effectively facilitate the chiropractor-patient relationship and the dynamic exchanges that occur before, during and after the health care encounter.

Section 2.02 Description

Chiropractors facilitate and encourage shared decision-making through effective fluid communications and interactions with patient's families, caregivers and other health care professionals. The competencies of this role are essential for establishing and maintaining rapport and trust, formulating a working clinical impression, delivering information, striving for mutual understanding and deriving a shared plan of care.

Section 2.03 Key competencies

As chiropractors, BCC graduates are able to:

CMM 1. Develop ethical relationships with patients and their families.

CMM 1.1 Effectively define and communicate chiropractic to patients, their families, and the general public.

CMM 1.2 Skilfully interpret non-verbal cues when communicating with a patient.

CMM 1.3 Demonstrate empathy with patients based on a foundation of trustworthiness.

CMM 1.4 Know and apply appropriate professional boundaries at all times.

CMM 1.5 Show sensitivity to patients in regard to special needs, cultural differences, gender, sexual orientation, and religion.

CMM 2. Share decision-making and effectively communicate a care plan.

CMM 2.1 Effectively communicate health concerns with, patients, families, the general public, and other health care providers encouraging participation in shared decision making.

CMM 2.2 Communicate with patients through a meaningful discourse in language that the patient can understand.

CMM 2.3 Explain the benefits and associated risks of care.

CMM 2.4 Take particular care when dealing with children, vulnerable patients, or people with mental health issues.

CMM 2.5 Demonstrate basic counselling skills regarding life-style factors that are detrimental to the patients’ general health.

CMM 2.6 Allow the patient time to talk and actively listens in a professional, empathetic manner.

CMM 2.7 Skilfully identifies patients concerns and preferences.

CMM 2.8 Communicate to all involved in the decision making process in a way that fosters continuity of care.

CMM 3. Effectively convey all pertinent details of a clinical encounter, both verbally and in writing.

CMM 3.1 Effectively take a relevant clinical history.

CMM 3.2 Maintain and manage excellent and appropriate health care records.

CMM 3.3 Seamlessly synthesise all pertinent data gathered from the patient interview and examination procedures and, where appropriate, present them to other health care professionals, family or patients.

CMM 3.4 Effectively address and document challenging professional issues.
3. COLLABORATOR

Section 3.01 Definition

As collaborators, chiropractors work effectively with and within healthcare teams with the goal of achieving optimal patient care.

Section 3.02 Description

Chiropractors work in partnership with others who are appropriately involved in the care of individual or specific groups of patients. This is important because modern healthcare teams often include extended teams with a variety of perspectives and skills in multiple locations. As a result, it is essential that chiropractors are able to collaborate effectively with patients, families, and other healthcare professionals.

Section 3.03 Key Competencies

As chiropractors, BCC graduates are able to:

COL 1. Participates and communicates effectively as part of a professional healthcare team.
   COL 1.1 Synthesise the relevant information and report on findings and proposals concerning the care plan in a concise form to supervisors and other healthcare professionals.
   COL 1.2 Discuss care options including relative risks and benefits with colleagues and other care providers.
   COL 1.3 Recognise personal limits of expertise and decide if and when other professionals are needed to contribute to a patient’s care.
   COL 1.4 Communicate in an efficient way with all team members to ensure shared understanding of patients’ preferences and foster continuity of care.
   COL 1.5 Demonstrate good handover practice and ensure continuity of care and and careful patient information transfer with members of the care team, accurately summarising the main points of clinical impression, active problems, and care plans.
   COL 1.6 Welcome appraisal from patients and colleagues on the quality of one’s work and cope with feedback, even when negative.
   COL 1.7 Seek and welcome feedback from patients and colleagues on the quality of her/his work.

COL 2. Respect colleagues and other healthcare professionals.
   COL 2.1 Recognise the general scope of practice of other health care professionals and respect professional boundaries.
   COL 2.2 Identify and discusses the roles of relevant health professionals and the services available in the community.

COL 3. Define and explain the chiropractic perspective and field.
   COL 3.1 Recognise the general scope of practice of the chiropractic health care professional.
   COL 3.2 Seek out opportunities to discuss chiropractic principles and related evidence underpinning clinical decision making and clinical care with colleagues and other professionals.

COL 4. Appreciate the role and scope of other healthcare providers.
   COL 4.1 Recognise the general scope of practice of other health care professionals.
COL 5. Expand and promote chiropractic.

COL 5.1 Advocate utility of chiropractic in professional and public circumstances where doing so is supported by chiropractic principles and related evidence.

COL 6. Recognise personal limits of expertise and refer appropriately if and when other professionals are needed.

COL 6.1 Communicate to the appropriate health professionals with the relevant information in a timely fashion.

COL 6.2 Involve other health professionals where appropriate.

COL 6.3 Ensure clinical notes are dated, legible, accurate and concise.

COL 6.4 Ensure all relevant details are included in referral documentation.
4. MANAGER

Section 4.01 Definition

Chiropractors take on the role of Managers in clinical settings and healthcare institutions in order to best allocate limited resources whilst working towards the optimal health of patients, sustainable practices and effectiveness of the healthcare system.

Section 4.02 Description

Chiropractors require management skills in order to serve patients’ best interests and to cost-effectively serve the public. The role of Manager requires that chiropractors develop sustainable and effective clinics, manage their time, lead those they collaborate with and to effectively execute cooperative tasks with colleagues. These tasks imply making choices to effectively allocate finite material and human resources. These managing skills allow chiropractors to become integral participants in the healthcare system.

Section 4.03 Key Competencies

As chiropractors, BCC graduates are able to:

MAN 1. Manage a chiropractic practice in relation to its legal, administrative, business and marketing aspects.
   - MAN 1.1 Show awareness of the economic and legal basis of the local healthcare system.
   - MAN 1.2 Understand the local economic context.
   - MAN 1.3 Take the required legal steps to set up a private practice.
   - MAN 1.4 Delegate the accountant and tax management where necessary.
   - MAN 1.5 Build and coordinate ethical and professional marketing campaigns.

MAN 2. Allocate the necessary resources to ensure the sustainability of a chiropractic practice.
   - MAN 2.1 Show awareness of possible conflict between health needs of individual patients and the health needs of the community.
   - MAN 2.2 Assess the effectiveness, appropriateness and efficiency of chiropractic practice.

MAN 3. Manage human resources in a cost effective and fair manner.
   - MAN 3.1 Show sensitivity towards cultural, religious and gender differences amongst co-workers.
   - MAN 3.2 Draw up career development plans for employees and co-workers.
   - MAN 3.3 Conduct timely constructive and positive staff appraisals.
   - MAN 3.4 Analyse the fairness and adequacy of the staff remuneration policy.

MAN 4. Manage personal and practice time with the objective to ensure patients’ best interests.
   - MAN 4.1 Employ effective time management, planning and prioritising methods.
   - MAN 4.2 Delegate or call for aide when appropriate.
   - MAN 4.3 Recognise excessive stress or early symptoms of illness and seek appropriate help to protect patients, being aware that one’s own performance may be affected by personal stress and illness.
   - MAN 4.4 Care for one’s own health at work.
MAN 5. Ensure patients’ data protection.

MAN 5. 1 Understand and apply the principles of health data protection and private information management.
MAN 5. 2 Retrieve patient-specific information from the clinical data system at one's workplace.
MAN 5. 3 Search, collect, organise and interpret health information from different databases.
MAN 5. 4 Show awareness of, and conform to, the local data protection related laws and regulations.

MAN 6. Create plans and protocols for patient management, patient care, adverse reactions and risks/crisis and personal security sources.

MAN 6. 1 Create patient care plans and include adequate re-evaluation milestones.
MAN 6. 2 Demonstrate basic knowledge related to the detection, appropriate management and prevention of health care errors.
MAN 6. 3 Recognise personal limits of expertise and decide appropriately if and when other professionals are needed to contribute to a patient's care.
MAN 6. 4 Develop and apply an adequate referral policy.

MAN 7. Adopt a leader role in their community.

MAN 7. 1 Explain the roles and responsibilities of chiropractors.
MAN 7. 2 Seek and welcome feedback from patients and colleagues on the quality of one's work and cope with feedback, even when negative.
MAN 7. 3 Give examples of how the quality of health care is monitored, advanced and assured.
5. HEALTH ADVOCATE

Section 5.01 Definition

As Health Advocates, chiropractors responsibly use their knowledge and skills to advance the health of individual patients, communities, and populations.

Section 5.02 Description

Chiropractors recognise their duty and ability to improve the overall health of their patients and the society they serve. They work in collaboration with individual patients, responding to individual needs and assisting and empowering them to take responsibility of their self-care. They work to identify and address broad health issues and determinants of health negatively affecting communities and society and work to change specific practices, policies or beliefs of individuals and communities. Health advocacy is appropriately expressed both by individual and collective actions of chiropractors in influencing public health and policy.

Section 5.03 Key Competencies

As chiropractors, BCC graduates are able to:

HAD 1. Promote the overall improvement of health of individuals, communities and society.
   HAD 1.1 Demonstrate knowledge of current public health policies.
   HAD 1.2 Identify points of influence in the healthcare system.
   HAD 1.3 Promote changes in health care policies based on clinic experience and updated evidence.
   HAD 1.4 Promote and apply current knowledge to individuals.

HAD 2. Act as role model of healthy habits.
   HAD 2.1 Demonstrate knowledge of healthy habits.
   HAD 2.2 Apply and explain healthy habits to those they serve.

HAD 3. Empower the patients to become an active participant in one's own self-care in a collaborative setting.
   HAD 3.1 Recognise the health need in individuals.
   HAD 3.2 Communicate and discuss care plan with patients.
   HAD 3.3 Perform a follow up of health care plan, and modify it according to patient needs and preferences.

HAD 4. Promote the accessibility of health care to those they serve.
   HAD 4.1 Promote public health care policies that cover the whole community and individual special needs.
   HAD 4.2 Promote special health care provisions to people with disabilities, in risk of social exclusion, or with other severe social needs.

HAD 5. Identify determinants of health of the community and respond to individual and community health needs.
   HAD 5.1 Identify health needs based on epidemiology data.
   HAD 5.2 Recognise health risk factors, promote disease prevention and take action to promote health.
   HAD 5.3 Identify possible health resources within the community and advocates efficient use of health promotion possibilities.
6. **SCHOLAR**

**Section 6.01 Definition**

As Scholars, BCC Graduates recognise the importance of a lifelong commitment to learning, and to the creation, dissemination, application and translation of health-related knowledge.

**Section 6.02 Description**

Chiropractors engage in the lifelong pursuit of mastering their domain of expertise. As learners, they recognise the need to be continually learning and model this for others. Through their scholarly activities, chiropractors contribute to the creation, dissemination, application and translation of health-related knowledge. As teachers and health advocates, they champion the education of their patients, students, colleagues, and others.

**Section 6.03 Key Competencies**

As chiropractors, BCC graduates are able to:

**SCH 1. Develop, implement, and document a personal continuing education strategy.**

**SCH 1.1** Regularly assess personal learning needs and to plan one's education, to recognise errors and to attempt to learn from them.

**SCH 1.2** Strive to evaluate the outcome of learning and implements new competencies in clinical practice.

**SCH 2. Apply critical appraisal to evidence.**

**SCH 2.1** Understand research methods.

**SCH 2.2** Search, retrieve and store scientific literature.

**SCH 2.3** Critically analyse scientific literature.

**SCH 2.4** Report findings of critical analysis in a scientific format.

**SCH 2.5** Integrate the current literature into the care of individual patients.

**SCH 2.6** Explain evidence related to care plan options.

**SCH 2.7** Reflect upon and modify where necessary the process of providing evidence informed care.

**SCH 2.8** Demonstrate understanding that decisions in clinical practice are often complex and based on uncertainty and probability data.

**SCH 2.9** Up-to-date knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences can be integrated into clinical problem solving and to the critical appraisal of new developments.

**SCH 3. Facilitate the learning of patients, students and other health professionals.**

**SCH 3.1** Participate in the dissemination of new knowledge and practice among colleagues and other collaborators and its translation into daily practice.

**SCH 3.2** Assess and reflect on a teaching encounter and provide constructive feedback.

**SCH 3.3** Shows readiness and ability to participate in collaborative research projects.

**SCH 4. Recognise the importance of a commitment to lifelong learning.**
7. PROFESSIONAL

Section 7.01 Definition

As Professionals, chiropractors are committed to providing care aimed towards improving the health of individuals and society through ethical and legal practice, profession-led guidance, and high personal standards of behaviour.

Section 7.02 Description

Chiropractors are health-care professionals who are dedicated to providing care aimed towards improving health and preventing disease in the patients whom they serve. Their work requires mastery of a complex body of knowledge, skills and competencies, as well as the art of chiropractic. Chiropractors are guided by a professional code of ethics and are committed to excellence and life-long learning. They demonstrate the necessary attitudes, high standards of behaviour, integrity, altruism and personal empathy expected of today's health care professionals.

Section 7.03 Key Competencies

As chiropractors, BCC graduates are able to:

PRO 1. Display the personal and interpersonal decorum expected from a health care professional.
   PRO 1.1 Commit to fitness to practise.
   PRO 1.2 Commit to the betterment of health of individual patients and society in general.
   PRO 1.3 Strive for excellence.
   PRO 1.4 Act in the best interest of those they serve.
   PRO 1.5 Define and respect patient's rights and responsibilities.

PRO 2. Respect legal, moral, and ethical obligations.
   PRO 2.1 Plan and evidence continued professional development with a commitment to life-long learning.
   PRO 2.2 Understand and apply a professional and legal code of ethics.
   PRO 2.3 Identify and acknowledge ethical problems when they arise and apply the most apt solution.
   PRO 2.4 Satisfy the statutory obligations necessary for clinical practice.

PRO 3. Provide care
   PRO 3.1 Base care on a comprehensive understanding of the biological, psychological and social characteristics of neuromusculoskeletal conditions which commonly present to chiropractors.
   PRO 3.2 Utilise interventions in the management of those common conditions, which can include manual therapies, neurological and functional rehabilitation, nutritional, lifestyle and psychosocial advice, self-care and the principles of health promotion and disease prevention.
   PRO 3.3 Understands the benefits of self-care support and apply knowledge and skills about self-care to patients.
   PRO 3.4 Understands and applies the skills necessary to initiate self-care protocols and activities working collaboratively with other members of the immediate care team and more broadly with members of the referral network.
   PRO 3.5 Provides patients with the option of care, supported by self-care education, aimed towards optimizing neuromusculoskeletal function and improved health-related quality of life.