

## SUMMARY OF CHIROPRACTIC'S ROLE IN THE MEDICAL HOME SYSTEM

- Iowa's medical home legislation describes the "medical home" as having the following characteristics: (See §135.158(2))
  - A **personal provider**. Each patient has an ongoing relationship with a **personal provider** trained to provide first contact and continuous comprehensive care.
  - A provider-directed medical practice. The **personal provider** leads a team of individuals at the practice level who collectively take responsibility for the ongoing health care of patients.
  - Whole person orientation. The **personal provider** is responsible for providing for all of a patient's health care needs or taking responsibility for appropriately arranging health care by other qualified health care professionals...

- A patient may designate a chiropractor as his or her personal provider.

Section 135.157(6) defines "personal provider" as "the patient's first point of contact in the health care system with a **primary care provider** who identifies the patient's health needs, and working with a team of health care professionals, provides for and coordinates appropriate care to address the health needs identified."

Section 135.157(7) defines "primary care provider" as including "a **chiropractor** licensed pursuant to chapter 151."

**THUS, A CHIROPRACTOR IS DEFINED UNDER THE LAW AS A PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER WHO MAY BE DESIGNATED BY THE PATIENT AS HIS/HER PERSONAL PROVIDER AND FIRST POINT OF CONTACT IN THE MEDICAL HOME SYSTEM.**

- Chiropractors currently serve as primary care providers for many of their patients and are the first point of contact for these patients.
- While some patients may use and view their chiropractors as "specialists", this does not change the fact that many patients use chiropractors as primary care providers and the law specifically states that chiropractors are primary care providers and may serve as the patient's "personal provider" or "medical home."
- The medical home system developed and implemented by the Iowa Department of Public Health, with the assistance of this Advisory Council, MUST allow patients to designate chiropractors as their personal providers and must not be developed or implemented in a manner which would prevent a patient from designating his/her chiropractor as a personal provider.