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Setting the Record Straight

Letter to *More Magazine*

June 15, 2005

More Letters to the Editor
125 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

To the Editor:

I read with keen interest the "Quick Fix For A Bad Back" column in your June 2005. Foremost, I would like to commend your publication for suggesting a non-drug, non-surgical approach to treating back pain.

However, there is important information relating to your publication's advice that I feel your readers should be aware of. Currently, several states specifically do not allow therapists to perform spinal manipulation. Readers who reside in Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, and Washington should take note that the manipulation provided by a physical therapist does not fall within their state's legal practice. Consequently, it may be beneficial for your readers to be informed of other alternatives.

Preliminary information shows that there is a wide range in the educational levels of health care professionals who can perform manipulation -- with doctors of chiropractic receiving the most formal education. In fact, doctors of chiropractic are specifically and uniquely qualified to diagnose and treat many health problems -- especially of the musculoskeletal system -- with an education that includes an average of 4,800 hours of in-classroom instruction, laboratory diagnosis and hands-on clinical experience.

This extensive education prepares doctors of chiropractic to diagnose health care problems and expertly treat those problems within their scope of practice. Doctors of chiropractic are the most common providers of spinal manipulation, delivering more than 90 percent of spinal manipulations reimbursed by health insurance.

Please consider this information as you advise your readers about options for back pain prevention and relief. I hope that you will consider the American Chiropractic Association an information resource for future publications. If you wish to discuss any of these further, or if you have any questions about the information I've provided, feel free to contact the ACA office at 800-986-4636.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Krippendorf, DC
President, American Chiropractic Association