

Chiropractic is a holistic health care discipline that focuses on promoting correct physical alignment to maintain health. **Chiropractors**, also known as **Doctors of Chiropractic** or **Chiropractic Physicians**, diagnose and treat patients whose health problems are associated with the body's muscular, nervous, and skeletal systems, especially the spine. Chiropractors believe interference with these systems impairs normal functions and lowers resistance to disease. They also hold that spinal or vertebral dysfunction alters many important body functions by affecting the nervous system, and that skeletal imbalance through joint or articular dysfunction, especially in the spine, can cause pain.

Chiropractic is the third largest doctoral-level health care profession after medicine and dentistry (ACA, 2002). The chiropractic approach to health care is holistic, stressing the patient's overall health and wellness. It recognizes that many factors affect health, including exercise, diet, rest, environment, and heredity. **Chiropractors** use natural, drugless, non-surgical health treatments, and rely on the body's inherent recuperative abilities. They also recommend lifestyle changes—in eating, exercise, and sleeping habits, for example—to their patients. When appropriate, chiropractors consult with and refer patients to other health practitioners. Some chiropractors specialize in **sports injuries, neurology, orthopedics, nutrition, internal disorders, or diagnostic imaging**. Many chiropractors are solo or group practitioners who also have the administrative responsibilities of running a practice. In larger offices, chiropractors delegate these tasks to office managers and chiropractic assistants. Chiropractors in private practice are responsible for developing a patient base, hiring employees, and keeping records.

### Salary Information:

- **Chiropractors salary for the Rochester, New York area:**  
\$60,600 Median Salary Range (Career One Stop, 2008)
  - Chiropractor, Doctoral Degree:  
\$81,340 Median Salary Range (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)
- [\*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

### Transfer Information:

- To become a Chiropractor in NYS you must be trained at a Chiropractic School (usually a 4 year Doctoral degree after a Bachelor's degree) and also pass state board examinations to become licensed. Chiropractic colleges require applicants to have at least 60 semester hours of undergraduate study leading toward a Bachelor's degree, including courses in English, social sciences or humanities, organic and inorganic chemistry, biology, physics, and psychology.

### Additional Information:

- American Chiropractic Association: [www.amerchiro.org](http://www.amerchiro.org)
- Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards: [www.fclb.org](http://www.fclb.org)

