

“Best Practices” for Chiropractic Care for Patients with Neck Pain

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Delphi process is to elicit judgments from participants to facilitate planning and decision-making. It does so without physically assembling the participants. Information is exchanged via email.

REQUIREMENTS

The Delphi technique requires a facilitator to conduct the process, manage the information, and ensure that procedures are followed correctly. Dr. Cheryl Hawk will serve in this position, having had extensive experience in implementing projects conducted at multiple distant sites.

The Steering Committee reviewed all nominees and selected them based on both experience and representativeness, with the goal of forming a balanced panel of experienced practitioners.

SEED DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT

The Steering Committee, composed of practitioners and academicians with many years of clinical and/or research experience, developed the seed statements, going through extensive revisions before completing the current set of seed statements.

DELPHI PROCESS

Panelists will first be provided with relevant background literature. After each round, the Steering Committee will revise the statements as per the panelists’ ratings and comments. The seed document will contain appropriateness scales after statements that require consensus. There will also be a comment box that expands to allow any length of comment desired. Only the items on which there was disagreement will be re-circulated.

We ask that you indicate the appropriateness of the procedure or practice described, where **1=highly inappropriate; 5= uncertain; and 9= highly appropriate.**

highly inappropriate **uncertain** **highly appropriate**
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Specific comments:

By “appropriateness” we mean that the expected health benefit to the patient exceeds the expected negative consequences by a sufficiently wide margin that it is worth doing, exclusive of cost. (from RAND/UCLA Appropriateness Method User’s Manual)

If you rate a procedure/practice INAPPROPRIATE, you must specifically state your reason, and provide a citation from the peer-reviewed literature to support it, if such exists. If you do not provide a specific reason, your response will be considered incomplete and no number will be recorded. We require this so that the steering committee can make appropriate, evidence-informed revisions to reflect the panelists’ input accurately.

In the analysis, we will calculate the MEDIAN response for each item. Medians, unlike means, take extreme responses into consideration, so will better ensure that each response will have an impact on the total. We will consider that agreement is present if at least 80% of panelists marked 1-3, 4-6, OR 7-9 AND the median response score was within that same level.

If they provide written permission, all panelists will be listed by name in the final document produced by this process. Panelists participate as volunteers and are not compensated.