

Arizona Association of Chiropractic Legislative Goals - 2025

Chiropractic Assistants to Take X-rays Under Delegation

Currently, the Arizona Administrative Code (R4-7-1103) explicitly prohibits chiropractic assistants (CAs) from taking X-rays.

Possible Solutions:

Legislation to clarify the current language in the Code (language below):

“A chiropractic assistant may not take an X-ray, **except under the delegation of a licensed chiropractor and in accordance with rules adopted by the board...**”

Also, as is required in several other states, CAs taking X-rays under delegation may be required to complete specific training and/or pass a certification exam.

Benefits for Arizona Families:

Allowing chiropractic assistants to take X-rays under delegation would give Arizona families quicker, more affordable, and more convenient care by reducing extra appointments, lowering costs, and ensuring faster diagnoses—all while maintaining safety through proper training and oversight.

Advanced Imaging

Possible Solution:

Create legislation to add “diagnostic imaging” in Section 32-925 of the statute so that the statute will read: “Physical and clinical examinations, **diagnostic imaging**, and clinical diagnostic laboratory...”

Historical Information:

Language attempted but not passed in 2024: “Physical and clinical examinations, diagnostic x-rays, **ordering diagnostic imaging** and clinical diagnostic laboratory procedures that are limited to nasal swabs, oral swabs, sputum collection, urine collection, finger pricks or venipuncture in order to determine the propriety of a regimen of chiropractic care or to form a basis for referring patients to other licensed health care professionals, or both.”

Benefits for Arizona Families:

This amendment will improve patient access, safety, efficiency of care and is cost effective — all things patients value highly.

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Require MedPay Coverage

Arizona is a fault-based state, and drivers must carry liability insurance but are not required to carry Medical Payments (MedPay) coverage. After an accident, many Arizonans face uncovered emergency bills, especially those with high deductibles or no health insurance. Hospitals and taxpayers absorb millions in uncompensated care costs each year.

Possible Changes:

All auto insurance policies in Arizona include at least \$5,000 in MedPay coverage per person, per accident. (Also, consider allowing Insurers to offer higher optional limits).

Benefits to Arizona Families:

Immediate-pay coverage ensures families get care right away by covering ER, urgent care, and chiropractic treatment without waiting for liability disputes. It protects consumers from medical debt, reduces lawsuits over minor expenses, and saves taxpayers by cutting uncompensated hospital care costs.

Legislation to Clarify ARS 20-461

Need to amend language in ARS 20-461 subsection B (see below in red) to read **“all physicians licensed pursuant to title 32, chapter 8, 13, or 17...”**

Current Language: B. Nothing in subsection A, paragraph 17 of this section shall be construed to prohibit the application of deductibles, coinsurance, preferred provider organization requirements, cost containment measures or quality assurance measures if they are equally applied to all types of physicians referred to in this section, and if any limitation or condition placed upon payment to or upon services, diagnosis or treatment by any physician covered by this section is equally applied to all physicians referred to in subsection A, paragraph 16 of this section, without discrimination to the usual and customary procedures of any type of physician. A determination under this section of discrimination to the usual and customary procedures of any type of physician shall not be based on whether an insurer applies medical necessity review to a particular type of service or treatment.

Benefits for Arizona Families:

This will ensure that chiropractic physicians are recognized equally alongside allopathic and osteopathic physicians. Importantly it will also give patients the freedom to choose the licensed physicians that best meets their needs and improve access to care, lower out-of-pocket costs, and reduce delays caused by insurance denials or referral barriers