

## **Helping Hands Chiropractic**

**Dr. Richard Williams MBA., DC., APC.**

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Policy implementing the New Mexico Department of Health's Public Health Emergency Order Imposing Temporary Restrictions on Non-Essential Health Care Services and Procedures.

**Policy:** While Executive Order 2020-004 remains in effect Dr. Richard Williams will follow our policy to perform only essential health care services or procedures and non-essential health care services or procedures will be postponed.

### **Definitions:**

**Essential health care** services and procedures include the provision of the following services as determined by the training, experience, and clinical judgment of a licensed health care provider acting within their scope of practice and regardless of eventual diagnosis: (a) routine office visits and consultation; (b) emergency medical care; (c) medical care necessary to identify and treat urgent medical needs; (d) any surgery or health care service that is necessary to prevent serious medical condition from worsening; and (e) all family planning medical services.

**Non-essential health care** services and procedures means those medical care services that can be delayed for three (3) months without undue risk to the patient's health, which shall be determined based on the training, experience, and clinical judgment of a licensed health care provider within their scope of practice.

**Procedures:** While Executive Order 2020-004 remains in effect Dr. Richard Williams shall take all reasonable steps to preserve and maintain public access to health care facilities and PPE. In order to do so Dr. Richard Williams will continue to provide any and all essential health care services and procedure and all non-essential health care services and procedures will be postponed for a reasonable period of time. A determination of whether a service or procedure is essential or non-essential is to be determined base on the training, experience and clinical judgment of the licensed health care provider making the determination within their scope of practice. In the event that a health care service or procedure is deemed non-essential, the patient's health care needs will be re-assessed on a regular basis as determined by the treating provider. No essential healthcare service will be declined or otherwise withheld in order to preserve PPE or maintain public access to health facilities.

**Summary of Essential Health Care Services Provided by** Dr. Richard Williams will provide CMT, Physical exams, Physiotherapies that include electrical stimulation, mechanical traction and decompression therapy. These procedures will be utilized on critical patients.

**Summary of Patient Types Seen:**

Critical care patients that will be treated in the office during this time will include acute care patients (personal injury and worker's comp cases), patients to be evaluated for fractures via x-ray and patients suffering from chronic deteriorating pain conditions. By offering these health services which reduce pain during this time it will help assist in the reduction of opiate use, reduce burden on ER and Urgent Care facilities, reduce PCP visits in order to help free up providers to address more COVID 19 patients.

**Effective Immediately Office Policy Changes for COVID 19 Pandemic:**

- Follow DOH and CDC recommendations on self-quarantine if Dr. Richard Williams or a staff member feels ill or displays symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, difficulty breathing) and contact NM DOH
- Contacting all scheduled new and existing patients and screen for COVID-19 symptoms or risks. If concern arises, advise patients to contact NM DOH Corona Virus Hotline at 1-855-600-3453. Advise against going to emergency department, urgent care, or other healthcare providers' office until they have contacted the DOH.
- Modify patient sign in procedures to single sheet and sterilize pens between uses. If using tablet or other electronic device, sterilize stylus between patients.
- Dr. Richard William and staff will wash or sanitize their hands between every patient interaction.
- Clean treatment tables between every patient, with EPA approved disinfectant.
- Clean high touch surfaces often.
- Regarding masks, due to limitations of supply only individuals displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or those in direct care of patients showing symptoms should wear a mask.
- Remove all magazines, books, or children's toys from waiting rooms.

In an effort to practice social distancing Dr. Richard Williams and staff will:

- o Modifying schedule to reduce the number of patient to no more that 5 at one time, as per most recent White House guidelines
- o If a patient has a driver accompany them to their appointment, we will ask them to wait in their vehicle and not your waiting room
- o We will reschedule or delay non-urgent appointments for high risk populations, i.e. +65 years old or immune compromised patients

