Dear patient:

Every type of health care is associated with some risk of a potential problem. This includes chiropractic health care. Complete Health Physicians Associates, Inc., and whoever he/she may designate as his/her assistant wants to inform you about potential problems associated with chiropractic health care before consenting to treatment, this is called informed consent. Chiropractic adjustments are the moving of bones with the doctor’s hands or with the use of a machine. Frequently adjustments create a “pop” or “click” sound/sensation in the area being treated. In this office we use trained staff personnel to assist the doctor with portions of your consultation, examination, x-ray taking, physical therapy application, traction, massage therapy, exercise instruction, etc. Occasionally when your doctor is unavailable, another clinic doctor will treat you on that day. SORENESS: It is common for chiropractic adjustments, traction, massage therapy, exercise. Etc. to result in a temporary increase in soreness in the region being treated. This is nearly always a temporary symptom that occurs while your body is undergoing therapeutic changes. It is not dangerous, but please do tell your doctor about it. SOFT TISSUE INJURY: Soft tissues primarily refer to muscles and ligaments. Muscles move bones, and ligaments limit joint movement. Rarely a chiropractic adjustment, traction, massage therapy, etc may tear some muscle or ligament fibers. The result is a temporary increase in pain and necessary treatments for resolution, but there are no long term effects for the patient. These problems occur so rarely that there are no available statistics to quantify their probability. RIB FRACTURES: The ribs are found only in the thoracic spine or middle back. They extend from your back to your front chest area. Rarely a chiropractic adjustment will crack a rib bone, and this is referred to as a fracture. This occurs only on the patients that have weakened bones from such this as osteoporosis. Osteoporosis can be noted on your x-rays. We adjust all patients very carefully, and especially those who have osteoporosis on their x-rays. These problems occur so rarely that there are no available statistics to quantify their probability. DISC HERNIATION: Disc herniation that create pressure on the spinal nerve or on the spinal cord are frequently successfully treated by chiropractors and chiropractic adjustments, traction, etc. This includes both the in the neck and back. According to the article, Reviews of the Literature: Side Posture Manipulation for Lumbar Intervertebral Disk Herniation by: J. David Cassidy, D.C., the treatment of the lumbar intervertebral disk herniation by side posture manipulation is both safe and effective: although, some herniations require surgery. (Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics. Volume 16 number 2: February 1993). STROKE: Stroke is the most serious problem associated with chiropractic adjustments. Stroke means that a portion of the brain does not receive enough oxygen from the blood stream. The results can be temporary or permanent dysfunction of the brain, with a very rare complication of death. Chiropractic adjustments have been associated with strokes that arise from vertebral artery only; this is because the vertebral artery is actually found inside the neck vertebrae. The adjustment that is related to vertebral artery stroke is called extension-rotation-thrust atlas adjustment”. We do not do this type of adjustment on patients. Other types of neck adjustments may also potentially be related to vertebral artery strokes, but no one is certain. The most recent studies (Journal of the CCA. Vol.37 No. 2, June, 1993) estimate that the incident of this type of stroke is 1 per every 3,000,000 upper back adjustments. This means that an average chiropractor would have to be in practice for hundreds of years before they would statistically be associated with single patient stroke. OTHER PROBLEMS: There may be other problems or complications that might arise from chiropractic treatment other than those noted above. These other problems or complications occur so rarely that it is not possible to anticipate and/or explain them all in advance treatment.

Chiropractic is a system of healthcare delivery, and therefore as with any health care delivery system we cannot promise a cure for any symptom, disease, or condition as a result of treatment in this clinic. We will always give you our best care, and if results are not acceptable, we will refer you to another provider who we feel will assist your situation. If you have any questions on the above, please ask your doctor. When you have a full understanding of the above and you hereby authorize the doctor to treat your condition as he or she deems appropriate, please sign and date below.

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PATIENT’S SIGNATURE     PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE (MINOR)

______________________________   ______/______/________
PATIENT’S NAME PRINTED    DATE