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## Consent for Manipulation of the Cervical Spine (Neck)

Part of your treatment for symptoms of neck and/or shoulder problems may include manual therapy and manipulation (cracking of the joints) of the cervical spine (neck). Legally we are required to inform you of the potential risks of manipulation of the neck.

- Temporary soreness after treatment, which occurs in about 1/3 of patients.
- Soft tissue injuries such as strain, sprain or rupture to muscle, tendon or ligament may occur, but are not common.
- Injuries such as bulging or rupture to cervical spine discs may occur on rare occasions, which may result in pain radiating into the arms or trunk. Very rarely, such injuries may result in long-term pain, weakness or loss of sensation.
- Possible fracture of bone. This is extremely rare in manipulation of the cervical spine.
- Possible injuries to the arteries in the neck. These are extremely rare events, with a reported incidence of between 1 in 400,000 to 1 in 2,000,000, but can cause a stroke with possible quadriplegia or sometimes death (due to tearing of the inner lining of the vertebral arteries).

The following symptoms may increase the risks associated with cervical spine manipulation, especially if associated with movements of the head and neck: Please inform your practitioner about any of the following symptoms:

- Dizziness, vertigo or fainting
- Disturbance of vision
- Nausea or vomiting
- Difficulty speaking or swallowing
- Change in gait (walking)
- Loss of sensation in the face.

Current medical research suggests that there are certain screening tests that should reduce the risk of these potential complications. Our experienced therapists routinely incorporate these testing procedures.

If you have any questions about your treatment including neck manipulation and the risks associated, please discuss these with your practitioner.

Signed ..... Date .....

NAME:.....

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