



## Alternative Family Medicine and Chiropractic

Dr. Ann-Marie Barter DC, LLC ♦ Dr. Jennifer Christian DC

**WELCOME.** The doctors of chiropractic at this office are honored to be a part of your journey to achieve better health. This consent outlines our practice, policies, and your consent to care.

**FUNCTIONAL HEALTH:** Doctors of chiropractic practicing in a functional health model view health as a continuum from optimal health to hidden imbalances to disease. Rather than treating disease (e.g. cancer, hypothyroid, or multiple sclerosis), we address underlying metabolic, physiologic, and functional imbalances, intervening at root causes. One effect may be the ability to reduce or eliminate the need for medications, which must be done by your prescribing provider. As doctors of chiropractic, we do not prescribe drugs or perform surgery. Therefore all changes to prescription medications must be made by your prescribing provider.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Alternatives include doing nothing, relying solely on drug therapy, or consulting with other providers. Chiropractic is a branch of the healing arts distinct from other branches (e.g. nursing, osteopathic, or allopathic). I understand that the doctors in this practice are doctors of chiropractic who have post graduate education in functional endocrinology and clinical nutrition, and that diagnosing and treating human diseases or ailments is within the scope of chiropractic practice. Nonetheless, we encourage you to communicate with your other health providers about the care you receive.

**RISKS:** Nutritional remedial measures and supplements used in our practice are generally considered safe; however, they may involve some risks including, without limit, changes in blood sugar or gastrointestinal upset. They may also interact with certain drugs and may be inappropriate during pregnancy. Chiropractic adjustment involves some risks including, without limit, fractures, disc injuries, dislocations, and sprains. Additionally, hidden conditions may exist that are not detectable through x-ray or physical or neurological exams. This may include spinal tumors, weak or occluded arteries, and aneurysms. Accordingly, there are some people that are at risk for stroke or vascular injuries.

**NO GUARANTEE:** Every individual responds to care differently and no guarantee or assurance is made as to the results of care in any specific case, as care may not improve your condition or result in reducing medications. We can, however, speak of our experience treating functional imbalances, and the success seen in our office has been excellent. Success includes documented subjective or objective functional improvement.

**PAYMENT, INSURANCE, AND REFUNDS:** Payment for services is not conditional on response to care. There is no guarantee of insurance coverage. Often, we will not know if an insurer will cover any costs until we send a bill. Any insurance you have is an agreement between you and your insurance carrier and you are responsible for payment of services, whether or not they are covered by insurance. Prorated fees for unused, prepaid services will be refunded if you wish to cancel; however, no refunds are available for any product purchases.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:** I have read and fully understand this consent form, and understand that I should not sign this form if any of my questions have not been explained to my satisfaction or if I do not understand any of the terms or words.

**DO NOT SIGN UNLESS YOU HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND!**

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**Patient or Person with Authority to Consent**

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**Date**

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