



THE CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION (SINGAPORE)

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I refer to the letter "[Alternative treatments no substitute for medical help](#)", [ST 03 July 2016](#), by Michael Loh Toon Seng (Dr).

I write on behalf of committee of The Chiropractic Association (Singapore), the registered society representing the segment of the chiropractic profession in Singapore that strives to uphold international professional standards of care.

Our association fully agrees with Dr Loh's first 4 paragraphs, and the mall screening practices of these marketing-based practitioners. Further, the sale of large packages of prepaid care is prohibited under our rules, and precludes these individuals from being members of our association. We would like to state that TCAS rules are based on patient centered principles rather than profit-based practices.

However, contrary to Dr Loh's further statements, there is good scientific evidence that chiropractic management of both acute and chronic neck and low back pain and headache has been shown to be safe, effective and cost-effective.

In fact, Chiropractors are widely regarded as spine and joint care experts, for example:

- A chiropractor is leading USA Olympic Sports medicine team to Rio Olympics this year.
- Chiropractors are part of specialist clinic teams for spine pain management like the Texas back institute since 1993.
- Chiropractors are regulated primary care practitioners in many countries like USA, Canada, Australia, UK, Hong Kong and South Africa.

Chiropractic is the world's third largest professional degree healthcare discipline, and a chiropractor trained to the international standard is fully qualified to make a differential diagnosis of spinal conditions, and refer when a patient's condition warrants medical management or co-management.

Unfortunately, the lack of statutory regulation of the chiropractic profession in Singapore and the relative wealth of our population attracts rogues. These practitioners would be unable to maintain such medically inappropriate practices in a regulated environment, where even according to Dr Loh, chiropractic is widely accepted, as those jurisdictions have weeded out such bad practices.

This lack of regulation in Singapore makes it imperative for the public to seek the services of a chiropractor who is a member of The Chiropractic Association (Singapore) to guarantee an international standard of education and adherence to an international standard of ethical practice.

For a list of members of TCAS that put patients interest before profits visit www.chiropractic.org.sg

Neil Stakes (Chiropractor)

President The Chiropractic Association Singapore 2014-2016