

# Appendix G

## Glossary of Terms or References

### **ACA**

American Chiropractic Association

### **acne**

Inflammation or infection of sebaceous glands.

### **Activator technique**

A system of adjustment using a hand held spring-activated device that delivers a controlled thrust.

### **activities of daily living**

Activities routinely performed by an average person.

### **acupressure/Meridian therapy**

The practice of applying digital pressure to stimulate certain sites on the skin to affect distant functional mechanisms of the body. This therapy is based on the belief that these sites are organized along meridians that carry life force.

### **acupuncture**

The practice of inserting needles into specific sites on the skin to relieve pain, induce surgical anesthesia, and to affect distant functional mechanisms of the body. This therapy is based on the belief that these sites are organized along meridians that carry life force.

### **adjunctive therapy/care/procedure**

Those therapies or procedures that are provided but are not the primary therapy.

### **adjustive instrument**

A device that delivers a controlled therapeutic thrust.

### **adjustment**

A therapeutic thrust that is meticulously controlled in its velocity, amplitude, and direction.

### **adrenal disorder**

Dysfunction of the adrenal gland.

### **AHCPR**

Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

### **AIDS**

Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; this represents the end stage of infection with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and is characterized by malignancies and infections due to progressive immune system deterioration.

### **allergies**

Conditions caused by overreactions of the immune system to particular antigens.

### **AMA**

American Medical Association

### **amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)**

Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease; a nervous system disorder characterized by degeneration of neural tissue and muscular weakness.

**anemia**

A condition characterized by a reduction in the number of red blood cells.

**angina pectoris**

A condition marked by recurrent pain in the chest or left arm caused by an inadequate blood supply to the heart muscle.

**angiogram**

A radiograph of blood vessels made possible by injecting a contrast medium into the vessels.

**APA**

American Psychological Association

**applied kinesiology**

A system of muscle testing used to augment traditional examination procedures.

**arterial aneurysm**

An enlargement of one aspect of an artery caused by weakness in the arterial wall.

**associate degree**

A degree conferred by a junior or community college after successful completion of two years of study in a particular field.

**associateship**

A practice arrangement between two or more practitioners commonly entered into by recent graduates in order to gain clinical practice experience.

**asthma**

A condition marked by recurrent attacks of wheezing due to spasmodic contraction of the bronchi.

**atelectasis or pneumothorax**

Collapse of a part, or the whole of a lung, due to absence of gas in the lung cavity or the presence of air or gas in the pleural cavity located between the lung and chest wall.

**avascular necrosis**

A condition caused by disruption in normal circulation to bone. It can result in pain, loss of bone density, or fracture.

**baccalaureate/bachelor's degree**

A degree conferred by a college or university after successful completion of undergraduate studies.

**back school**

Formalized instruction regarding spinal hygiene.

**biofeedback**

Techniques to enable an individual to gain some element of control over autonomic body functions, such as heart rate or blood pressure, by providing auditory or visual information on the state of his/her physiological condition.

**blood chemistry**

An analysis of the chemical properties of blood.

**blood serology**

An analysis of blood serum reactions to identify disease.

**bone scan**

An image of the concentrations of radioactivity after the internal administration of a radioisotope. The radioisotope concentrates in areas of increased metabolism such as that caused by infection or neoplasm.

**bursitis or synovitis**

Inflammation of a bursa or synovial membrane.

**cardiologist**

A physician who specializes in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease.

**carpal or tarsal tunnel syndrome**

Peripheral nerve compression syndromes; carpal tunnel syndrome affects the median nerve in the carpal tunnel of the wrist; tarsal tunnel syndrome affects the posterior tibial nerve or plantar nerves in the tarsal tunnel of the foot.

**case history**

The sum total of pertinent data gathered through interviewing a patient. These data typically include the patient's personal information, a description of the chief complaint and present illness, and relevant historical information.

**CCE**

Council on Chiropractic Education

**CCR**

Consortium for Chiropractic Research

**cerebrovascular**

Pertaining to the blood vessels of the brain.

**cervical spine**

The first seven vertebrae that constitute the bony structure of the neck.

**certification**

Official recognition that a practitioner has attained a standard through education and training that is beyond the basic level of competency necessary to practice in a profession.

**chiropractic**

A health science and art that considers humans to be integrated beings, but gives special attention to spinal biomechanics and musculoskeletal, neurological, vascular, nutritional, and environmental relationships.

**chlamydia**

A genus of bacteria that causes a sexually transmitted disease in humans.

**cholecystitis**

Inflammation of the gallbladder.

**colic**

Acute abdominal pain; recurrent abdominal pain in infancy often causing inconsolable bouts of crying.

**colitis or diverticulitis**

Inflammation of the colon or the diverticulum.

**concurrent condition**

A condition for which the patient is not reporting for care but is present with another condition for which the person is seeking care.

**congenital/developmental anomaly**

An abnormality that is present at birth or appears in later development.

**content-related evidence of validity**

Evidence that shows the extent to which the content domain of a test is appropriate relative to its intended purpose. Such evidence is used to establish that the test includes a representative or critical sample of the relevant content domain and that it excludes content outside that domain.

## **COPD**

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Generalized airway obstruction, particularly of small airways, associated with complications of chronic bronchitis, asthma, and emphysema.

## **correlation coefficient**

An index that can range from -1.00 through 0 to +1.00, indicating the extent to which two variables relate.

## **Cox/Flexion-Distractive technique**

A system of procedures using distraction, or doctor-controlled tractive forces applied to a specific level of the spine with or without articular facet adjustment.

## **cranial nerve disorder**

A condition affecting one or more cranial nerves.

## **cranial technique**

A technique to correct immobilities and asymmetries of the cranial bones.

## **credentialing**

Granting rights and privileges.

## **cryotherapy**

The use of cold as a treatment modality.

## **CT scan**

Computed tomograms use computer and X-ray technology to produce images of the body.

## **curriculum**

The regular courses of study in a particular school or degree program.

## **D.C.**

Doctor of Chiropractic

## **Delphi study**

A method of study originally developed by the RAND Corporation to arrive at reliable predictions about the future of technology. Widely used when convergence of opinion through group consensus is needed.

## **demographics**

Statistical information about a certain population.

## **dermatitis**

Inflammation of the skin.

## **diabetes**

A chronic syndrome characterized primarily by impaired metabolism of carbohydrates, but also of proteins and fat, due to decreased insulin production or tissue resistance to insulin.

## **diagnosis**

The determination of the presence and nature of a disease process.

## **diagnostic ultrasound**

Utilization of very high-frequency sound waves and their reflections for visualizing deep structures of the body.

## **diathermy**

Therapeutic use of high-frequency electric current to produce a thermal effect (heat) in the deep tissues of the body.

**diplomate**

A person who has completed the requirements for and received a diploma or certificate, usually in a specialized field.

**direct current**

Also called galvanic current. An electrical current that flows in one direction only. It is used therapeutically to control pain, move fluids, exercise muscles, relax spastic muscles, and induce thermal changes.

**discogram**

A radiograph of an intervertebral disc that has been injected with a contrast medium. It is utilized to visualize defects in the disc.

**diversified technique**

A full spine chiropractic adjustive technique designed to correct vertebral subluxations in the most efficacious manner possible with respect to the clinical circumstances. Typically, each chiropractic college teaches its own diversified technique.

**doctoral/doctorate degree**

The highest degree conferred by a college or university recognizing the recipient as a specialist in a particular field.

**eating disorder**

A mental disorder resulting in abnormal feeding habits, for example, anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa.

**ECG/EKG**

See electrocardiograph.

**electrical stimulation**

The use of an electrical current to elicit a desired physiologic response.

**electrocardiograph**

An instrument used to create a graphical representation of the bioelectrical activity of the heart as detected by electrodes on the skin of the chest.

**electroencephelograph**

An instrument used to create a graphical representation of the bioelectrical activity of the brain as detected by electrodes on the scalp.

**electromyograph**

An instrument used to create a graphical representation of the bioelectrical activity of muscles using surface or needle electrodes.

**emphysema**

A pathological accumulation of air in tissues or organs; applied especially to swelling of the alveoli or of the tissue connecting the alveoli in the lungs. It is accompanied by tissue atrophy and breathing impairment.

**endocrine or metabolic bone disorder**

A condition of the endocrine or metabolic system that produces a pathological effect in bone.

**epiphysitis**

Inflammation of an epiphysis (large articular end of a long bone) or of the cartilage that separates it from the main shaft of the bone.

**equilibrium**

A state of postural balance.

**ergonomics**

The science of creating an efficient human work environment, typically addressing anatomical, biomechanical, psychological, and physiological factors.

**esophageal reflux**

A condition in which the stomach contents backflow into the esophagus.

**extra-spinal joint conditions**

Conditions involving the joints not of the spinal column, i.e. ankle, knee, shoulder, fingers, etc.

**extremity subluxation/joint dysfunction**

An incomplete or partial dislocation in which the articular surfaces have not lost contact. Extremity subluxation may involve static properties (malposition) and/or dynamic properties (joint fixation) both of which result in joint dysfunction.

**FCER**

Federation of Chiropractic Education and Research

**FCLB**

Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards

**fibromyalgia**

A chronic condition characterized by achiness, tenderness, and stiffness of the muscles and adjacent soft tissues.

**field internship**

Practicing under the license and/or direct supervision of one or more physicians in an existing fee-for-service practice.

**field test**

A trial test of the Survey of Chiropractic Practice given to a small number of practitioners. It was used to identify problems participants might have in understanding and completing the survey.

**finite population correction term**

A factor included in the standard error formula that reduces the standard error as the proportion of the population sampled increases.

**frequency factor**

The estimated number of times the practitioner completing the survey performed the specified activity.

**full spine**

A chiropractic treatment approach in which all spinal levels are assessed as compared to approaches that focus on selected areas of the spine.

**Gonstead technique**

A full spine chiropractic method developed by Clarence Gonstead, D.C. that utilizes radiographic analysis, instrumentation, and palpation to locate and specifically determine the malposition of subluxated vertebrae, which are then corrected manually.

**hematology**

The study of the diseases of the blood and blood-forming tissues.

**hemorrhoid**

A dilated vein in the rectum or anus.

**hepatitis**

Inflammation of the liver; common causes are viral infections and alcoholism.

**hereditary disorder**

Any disorder that is transmitted genetically from parent to offspring.

**herpes simplex/herpes zoster**

Strains of the herpes virus that cause inflammatory skin diseases characterized by spreading clusters of small vesicles.

**hiatus or inguinal hernia**

The abnormal protrusion of a part of an organ or tissue through an opening. Hiatus refers to a part of the stomach protruding through the diaphragm; inguinal refers to the inguinal canal.

**HIV**

Human immunodeficiency virus; HIV is the causative organism responsible for AIDS.

**HMO**

Health maintenance organization; an organized system for providing an agreed upon set of health care services to enrollees in exchange for periodic prepayments without regard to actual amount of services utilized by individual enrollees.

**homeopathic remedies**

A therapy in which extremely small dosages of substances that are capable of producing symptoms like those of the disease being treated are administered to stimulate the body's natural defenses against the disease.

**hyperlordosis of cervical or lumbar spine**

Increased anterior convexity of cervical or lumbar spine.

**ibuprofen**

A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and antipyretic drug.

**ICA**

International Chiropractic Association

**impairment evaluation**

An evaluation to determine the presence of an impairment of a body part or parts.

**immunological disorder**

Dysfunction of the immune system.

**importance**

In the analysis of the survey, Frequency and Risk were multiplied together and the resultant product was labeled "importance".

**impotency**

The inability to initiate an erection or to maintain an erection until ejaculation.

**interferential current**

A physiotherapeutic modality consisting of two medium-frequency currents that intersect deep within a body part and in so doing create a third current.

**infrared baker lamp**

A superficial heat therapy utilizing radiation with a wavelength between 7,700 and 14,000 Angstroms.

**insurance**

A contract in which one party agrees to reimburse another in case of loss. In the case of health insurance, the loss is in the form of money paid for health care.

**integument**

The skin as the covering of the body; also known as integumentum.

**interim survey form**

The survey form administered to a small sampling of chiropractors and used to refine the form used for the *Survey of Chiropractic Practice*.

**internist**

A physician, who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases in adults. Internists usually exclude surgical and obstetrical interventions from their practice.

**intervertebral disc syndrome**

A conglomeration of signs and symptoms caused by a pathological condition of a spinal disc. It typically consists of episodic low-back pain with possible sciatic pain, progressive buttock, thigh, calf, and/or heel pain. Weakness, numbness, and decreased reflexes may also be present in the involved extremity.

**job analysis**

Any of several methods of identifying the tasks performed on a job or the knowledge, skills and abilities required to perform a job.

**job inventory**

A list of tasks and functions performed on a job; it serves as the basis for forming a job analysis.

**kidney stone**

A mass of hard material (usually mineral salts) accumulated in a kidney; the passing of a stone in the urine typically produces excruciating pain.

**kyphosis of thoracic spine**

Increased posterior convexity of the thoracic spine.

**licensure**

The process of granting a license which is required by law in order to practice a profession. It is the most restrictive form of occupational regulation, because it prohibits anyone from engaging in the activities covered by the scope of practice without permission from a government agency.

**Logan basic**

An adjustive technique developed by Hugh B. Logan, D.C. that utilizes an integrated system of body mechanics and adjusting procedures.

**lumbar spine**

The last five vertebral segments of the low back.

**managed care**

Any of a variety of organized systems for delivering health care services; see HMO and PPO.

**manipulation**

The therapeutic application of manual force. Spinal manipulative therapy broadly defined includes all procedures in which the practitioners hands are used to mobilize, adjust, manipulate, apply traction, massage, stimulate, or otherwise influence the spine and paraspinal tissues with the aim of influencing the patient's health.

**master's degree**

A degree conferred by a graduate school, usually requiring at least one year of study after a bachelor's degree.

**mean**

Arithmetic average.



**Medicaid**

A state and federal program of healthcare reimbursement for the poor.

**Medicare**

A federal program of health care reimbursement for the disabled and elderly.

**menopause**

The cessation of menstruation.

**Meric technique**

A system of analysis and adjusting in which the body is divided into zones corresponding to vertebral levels.

**methodology**

The design of a study or procedures utilized in a study.

**MRI**

Magnetic Resonance Imaging; a diagnostic imaging modality that utilizes a magnet field and radio frequency transmission and reception to produce images of the body. It is especially valuable in visualizing soft tissues.

**multiple sclerosis**

A central nervous system disorder characterized by demyelination and degeneration of neural tissue.

**muscular atrophy**

Wasting of muscle tissue.

**muscular dystrophy**

A degenerative genetic disease characterized by weakness and muscle atrophy.

**myocardial infarction**

Heart attack; the death of heart muscle due to an interruption of blood flow usually caused by atherosclerosis of the coronary arteries and coronary thrombosis.

**National Advisory Committee**

The committee composed of representatives from state chiropractic examining boards, chiropractic educators, and private practitioners to offer guidance to the job analysis project.

**National Board of Chiropractic Examiners (NBCE)**

The international testing agency for the chiropractic profession.

**NBCE Job Analysis Steering Committee**

The committee composed of representatives of the Board of Directors of the National Board of Chiropractic Examiners, who have the responsibility of guiding the job analysis project.

**nerve conduction study**

Electroneurography; a measurement of the nerve conduction velocity and latency of peripheral nerves.

**neuralgia**

Pain which extends along the course of one or more nerves.

**neurological exam**

Examination of the nervous system.

**neurologist**

A physician who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system.

### **neurology**

The study of the nervous system in health and disease.

### **neuromusculoskeletal (NMS) examination**

A series of specific tests performed to determine the structural integrity and functional capacity of the bones, muscles, and nerves of the body.

### **NIMMO/ receptor tonus technique**

A system of deep connective tissue and myofascial manipulation developed by Raymond Nimmo, D.C.

### **nutritionist**

A specialist in food, diet, and nutrition.

### **objective structured clinical examination/OSCE**

A practical examination characterized by the use of standardized patients who are extensively trained to reliably portray a specific health condition.

### **orthopedic exam**

Examination of structures involved in locomotion including joints, muscles, ligaments and connective tissue.

### **ortho/neuro specialist**

Orthopedist/neurologist.

### **orthopedics**

That branch of health care specializing in the prevention and treatment of injuries or diseases of the skeletal system, joints, and associated structures.

### **orthopedist**

A physician who specializes in orthopedics.

### **orthotics**

An orthopedic appliance or apparatus used to support, align, prevent, or correct deformities or to improve the function of parts of the body.

### **osteoarthritis/degenerative joint disease**

A disease occurring primarily in older individuals that is characterized by degeneration of the cartilage and hypertrophy of bone, generally accompanied by pain and stiffness.

### **osteomyelitis**

Inflammation of bone caused by infection.

### **osteopath**

A healthcare practitioner who utilizes generally accepted physical, medical, and surgical methods of diagnosis and therapy, while placing emphasis on the importance of normal body mechanics and manipulative methods of detecting and correcting faulty structure.

### **osteoporosis/osteomalacia**

Conditions marked by softening or degenerating of the bone mass sometimes accompanied by pain, tenderness, and muscular weakness, leading to bone fractures with minimal trauma.

### **Palmer, D.C., Daniel David**

The discoverer of chiropractic.

### **Palmer upper cervical/HIO technique**

A technique that utilizes specific radiographic analysis and adjusting procedures developed by B.J. Palmer, D.C. for correction of subluxations in upper cervical vertebrae only.

### **pancreatitis**

Inflammation of the pancreas due to autodigestion by its own enzymes usually caused by alcoholism or biliary disease.

**paraffin bath**

A superficial heat therapy usually applied to the hands or feet by immersion in melted paraffin wax that has been diluted with mineral oil.

**parasite**

An organism that lives in or upon another.

**Parkinson's disease**

A progressive degenerative disorder of the central nervous system accompanied by a characteristic "pill-rolling" tremor.

**pathology**

The structural and functional manifestations of disease.

**peripheral neuritis**

Inflammation, pain, and tenderness of a peripheral nerve.

**physiatrist**

A physician who specializes in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease or injury using physical agents and pharmaceuticals.

**physical examination**

Examination of the body through inspection, palpation, auscultation, and percussion for diagnosing disease.

**physical therapy**

Treatment or prevention of injuries and illnesses utilizing physical agents such as heat, cold, ultrasound, and electrical stimulation.

**physiotherapy**

See physical therapy.

**Pierce-Stillwagon technique**

A full-spine technique that utilizes specific radiographic analysis, instrumentation, and adjusting procedures developed by Walter Pierce, D.C., and Glenn Stillwagon, D.C.

**pigment disorders**

Abnormal skin coloring.

**pilot test**

A preliminary survey conducted by the NBCE to help determine the appropriate format and content of the Survey of Chiropractic Practice.

**pituitary disorder**

Dysfunction of the pituitary gland.

**plexus**

A network of nerves, blood vessels, or lymphatic vessels.

**podiatrist**

A specialist who cares for feet.

**polycythemia**

An above normal increase in the number of erythrocytes (red blood cells)

**practical exam**

An exam that requires examinees to perform tasks or procedures which might commonly be required in practice.

**Practice Model Log**

An instrument developed for self-administration by practicing chiropractors in which they provided information regarding each of 10 consecutive patient visits. These data were used as an additional source

of information about the chiropractic profession as well as a basis for developing the Interim Survey Form.

### **preceptorship**

Undergraduate and graduate programs in which a chiropractic college may place a student chiropractor or a recent graduate in a licensed chiropractor's office to learn clinical procedures and patient management methods under guidelines established by the sponsoring chiropractic college.

### **preferred provider organization/ PPO**

A health care plan that offers incentives for enrollees to utilize specific providers.

### **presenting condition**

One or more symptoms or other concerns for which the patient is seeking care or advice.

### **proportional sampling**

A form of sampling in which the number selected is a percent of the population.

### **psoriasis**

A condition which produces dry, scaling patches of skin sometimes associated with a distinctive arthritis.

### **psychiatrist**

A physician who specializes in the prevention and treatment of mental disorders.

### **psychological disorder**

A mental disorder, especially those that affect behavior.

### **psychologist**

A specialist who deals with the prevention and treatment of psychological disorders, usually without the use of pharmaceuticals.

### **psychoneuroimmunology**

That branch of science that deals with the interaction of mental processes, the nervous system, and the immune system in human health and disease.

### **radiculitis or radiculopathy**

Inflammation or disease of the root of the spinal nerve.

### **radiograph**

An X-ray; a visualization of body structures obtained by the passage of radiation through those structures and captured on sensitized film.

### **RAND**

A nonprofit institution that seeks to improve public policy through research and analysis.

### **rating scales**

A mechanism to obtain appraisals on a common set of attributes for all raters and ratees and to have these expressed on common quantitative and qualitative scales.

### **reliability**

The degree to which test scores are free of errors of measurement.

### **return rate**

Percent of practitioners selected to complete the *Survey of Chiropractic Practice* who either returned the survey form or who were accounted for by other means.

**research protocols**

Procedures to be followed in a research study.

**rheumatologist**

A physician who specializes in the treatment of diseases characterized by inflammation or other derangement of connective tissues especially the joints and related structures, e.g. arthritis.

**risk factor**

The degree of risk to public health or patient safety perceived by survey respondents relative to omission or poor performance of activities listed in the *Survey of Chiropractic Practice*.

**roentgenology**

Radiology; that branch of the health sciences that deals with the diagnostic and therapeutic use of radiation.

**sampling design**

The specified method by which individuals are selected to be surveyed.

**scoliosis**

A lateral curvature of the spine.

**S.O.A.P.**

Subjective, Objective, Assessment Plan/Procedure. A method of recording information in a patient's record based on a problem-oriented clinical approach.

**somatic**

Pertaining to the body.

**S.O.T./Sacro-occipital technique**

A system of soft tissue, reflex, diagnostic, and adjusting techniques developed by M.B. DeJarnette, D.C.; this technique emphasizes the close physiologi-

cal and biomechanical relationships between the pelvis and the cranium.

**SPEC**

Special Purposes Examination for Chiropractic. The SPEC is designed to assess licensed or previously licensed chiropractic practitioners in areas of clinical practice.

**specialty board/council**

A recognized authority that grants certification in specialties.

**spinal adjustment**

The art of replacing subluxated vertebrae (see adjustment) to their normal position for the purpose of restoring normal biomechanics, physiology, and innervation.

**spinal canal stenosis**

A significant reduction in diameter of the spinal canal; this may result in spinal cord or nerve root compression.

**sprain**

An injury to a ligament in which some of the fibers are ruptured or torn but the integrity of the ligament remains intact.

**standard deviation**

The measure of variability, spread, or dispersal of a set of scores around their mean value.

**standard error**

An abbreviation for standard error of estimate that indicates the accuracy of a score. The standard error of estimate is the standard deviation divided by the square root of the sample size, and corrected for sampling from a finite population.

**strain**

An overuse injury to a muscle.

**stroke**

A vascular lesion of the brain often resulting in permanent neurologic damage.

**subluxation**

The alteration of normal biomechanical or physiological dynamics of contiguous articular structures.

**survey instrument**

The questionnaire developed by the NBCE for the Survey of Chiropractic Practice.

**systemic/rheumatoid arthritis or gout**

Inflammation of the joints that tends to be chronic and progressive, and usually leads to deformities and disability.

**taping/strapping**

The application of adhesive tape to body parts to prevent or support injuries.

**t-test**

A statistical procedure used to determine whether two means (arithmetic averages) differ significantly from each other.

**tendinitis/tenosynovitis**

Inflammation of a tendon or of a tendon and its enveloping sheath.

**Thompson technique**

A system of analytical and adjusting techniques developed by J. Clay Thompson, D.C. that emphasizes the use of a Thompson terminal point adjusting table.

**thoracic outlet syndrome**

Compression of the brachial plexus or subclavian artery by anatomical structures in the region of the lower neck, first rib, and clavicle.

**thymus or pineal disorder**

Dysfunction of the thymus or pineal gland.

**thyroid or parathyroid disorder**

Dysfunction of the thyroid or parathyroid glands.

**TMJ syndrome**

Various symptoms of discomfort, pain, or pathology caused by trismus, muscle tremor, arthritis, direct trauma, or malocclusion of the temporomandibular joint.

**traction**

A therapeutic technique utilizing axial tension applied to a body segment.

**trigger point**

A focused area of hyperirritability in a tissue, usually muscle, that can result in referred pain and autonomic syndromes.

**ulcer of stomach, intestine or colon**

A lesion characterized by the loss of the inner mucosal surface of the digestive tract, usually accompanied by inflammation.

**ultrasound**

A therapeutic modality that utilizes high frequency sound waves to produce micromassage and deep heating effects in the body.

**ultraviolet therapy**

A radiation modality with wavelengths between 200 and 400 nanometers used to produce photochemical effects.

**validity**

The degree to which inferences from test scores are appropriate, meaningful or useful.

**vertebral facet syndrome**

A condition in which symptoms arise from inflamed, damaged, or dysfunctional vertebral facets. It often accompanies increased spinal lordosis and may be secondary to intervertebral disc degeneration.

**vertebrobasilar arterial insufficiency**

Inadequate blood flow through the vertebral arteries, or their union that forms the basilar artery, resulting in decreased blood flow to the brain.

**vertigo**

A false sense that either one's body or environment is rotating.

**vibratory therapy**

The use of fingers or a mechanical device to produce oscillations in body tissues or to stimulate proprioceptive nerve functions.

**weighting factor**

A number used when aggregating data from individuals or subgroups so that the aggregated sample accurately represents the population.

**whirlpool/hydrotherapy**

A therapeutic modality that utilizes water to produce various mechanical and/or physiological effects.

**work hardening**

Specialized programs for the prevention or rehabilitation of injuries related to specific jobs.

**workers' compensation**

State-regulated health care and wage reimbursement for workers who are injured on the job.

**X-ray**

See radiograph.