

Should we be on par with our medical colleagues with regard to diagnosis?

Diagnostic skills range from very little to Extraordinary. That is not a consequence of the profession that one belongs to or the legal responsibilities that it might have, but rather the intelligence and competency and focus of the practitioner. The question shouldn't be "should chiropractors have the diagnostic responsibility and capacity of the medical doctor", but rather "should the medical doctor have that responsibility." Of course they have it and legally it is not likely that they will lose it, however in the eyes of the public, their diagnostic acumen is being questioned. Much of this is due to reports in the media about medical failures as well as personal experience with the not infrequent negative consequences of invasive and pharmaceutically weighted medical therapies. It is also due in some part to the chiropractic profession.

I once wrote a series of letters to local MD's cautioning them regarding negative comments they were making regarding the chiropractic profession. I informed them that when they make such comments and those patients choose to try chiropractic anyway, it only damages the reputation of the medical doctor when that patient improves which they often do.

It is unrealistic to expect any practitioner to possess full-body diagnostic acumen. The medical profession doesn't expect this of their colleagues. Why should we of ours.