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**Title**

Patient safety and risk management. A pilot study into patient safety incidents, treatment complications and treatment reactions experienced by chiropractic patients

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**Rationale**

Recording and analysing information on patient safety incidents (PSIs), side effects, and commenting on them is an essential step towards managing risk in the chiropractic clinic setting.

**Aims and Objectives**

To determine the nature and frequency of treatment reactions, PSIs and near misses.

**Design**

A retrospective review of patient record cards for recorded incidents, accidents and treatment reactions.

**Subjects**

931 record cards of patients attending for chiropractic treatment at a student clinic in 2006 were reviewed.

**Methods**

Using data from the patient record cards, the Patient Conditions Treatment Reactions and Incidents (PCTRI) form was used to record treatment reactions and PSIs. In

addition to recording basic demographic data, the type of reaction or safety incident was noted and an assessment of its severity made.

## **Results**

The record card analysis showed an incident rate of 0.6% per treatment or patient contact. The reactions and PSIs fell in to the 'no harm' or 'low harm' categories. 35.5% of PSIs were related to the initial assessment where no treatment was given. A positive link was found between the number of treatments and the likelihood of experiencing a PSI. Most common negative reactions to treatment were local discomfort (55.5%) tiredness (22.86%) and headache (7.29%). Most reports of negative reactions (85%) were from females.

## **Conclusion**

The PCTRI data for new patients in 2006 indicate that PSIs have a very low incidence and that they are of little or no harm to the patient.