



# Getting diagnostic tests can be a real pain in the back.

When patients need diagnostic imaging and laboratory testing, they face unnecessary red tape that increases wait times and costs our provincial health system between **\$15.1 and \$23.7 million** a year.

## Enhancing the Scope of Chiropractic Care in Ontario will Provide:

### A Better Patient Experience:

- Now in Ontario, patients are required to book and attend at least one appointment with their family doctor to obtain a referral for an essential test, delaying their treatment.
- Some patients are forced to go to the emergency department of their local hospital to get their test ordered due to no Independent Health Facility in their community.
- Research shows that chiropractors order tests only when necessary<sup>1</sup>. When these tests are required to inform a diagnosis and develop a treatment plan. Their inability to order the relevant tests, negatively impacts patients, other providers and the health care system.

### Faster Access to Chronic Pain Management:

- Faster access to diagnostic testing by chiropractors will reduce the need for patients to visit their doctor for a referral. Especially when suffering from chronic pain, while waiting for their essential tests.



Ontario  
Chiropractic  
Association

<sup>1</sup> Legorreta, A., Metz, R., Nelson, C., Ray, S., Chernicoff, H., & DiNubile, N. (2004). Comparative analysis of individuals with and without chiropractic coverage. Archives of Internal Medicine, (164), 1985-1992. Retrieval from: [archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=217450](http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=217450)

## Increased Cost Savings:

- When patients need diagnostic tests, they face unnecessary red tape that costs our provincial health system between **\$15.1 and \$23.7 million** a year.
- The Ontario Chiropractic Association (OCA) is proposing a simple solution to cut red tape for patients by eliminating between 450,000 to 700,000 unnecessary visits to family doctors. This solution also helps to reduce wait times for primary care by freeing up the doctor's time.

**We can relieve the pressure on our health care system.**

## Reducing Red Tape Will Help Patients:

- Receive essential laboratory testing and advanced diagnostic imaging faster by reducing the need for a family physician referral.
- Access diagnostic X-rays in the over 60 rural and remote communities **that don't have** an Independent Health Facility.
- Receive care sooner from their chiropractor when managing pain by reducing unnecessary red tape when ordering tests.
- Save Ontario's health system between **\$15.1 and \$23.7 million** annually by avoiding unnecessary physician and emergency department visits.

