



Kids Our Family Newsletter First

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Our goal is to inspire you, to provide you with the latest health care options available, make you smile, and help you to help us fulfill our mission – *to reach as many parents and children as we can!*

If you have just joined our clinic or our newsletter mailing, last month I finished discussing routine medical rituals that are commonly bestowed upon unsuspecting parents to make the process of birth and delivery least upsetting to hospital timetables and tee-off times. Ok....I realize that this may seem like a pessimistic view, but there is truth in my words.

But, let's change speeds. Let's chat about this "thing" called *Wellness* everyone is talking about and everyone wants.

Wellness: What is it?

I am sure you have come across this word, but do not necessarily understand what it means. Let me state emphatically that you are not alone. Most people really have no idea what Wellness is all about.



Most people's concept of health includes getting up in the morning, looking down at their toes and seeing them wiggling. If they can take a step forward and don't feel bad doing so, then in fact they feel they are healthy – all parts working. They can now forge ahead and conquer the world. That is not health and it is not Wellness. Wellness is not about how you feel – it is all about how your body is functioning and maximizing that expression!



Wellness means taking responsibility for your health and your destiny.

This new movement has spawned a new industry, which includes natural health products, herbs, remedies, spas, fitness centers, etc. All of these methods are presently being used in increasing quantities to capture this elusive thing called health.

There has been a drastic shift, or paradigm, in peoples' thinking. Not long ago, you entrusted your health to physicians who, you assumed, would do their best to heal you, the patient. This included, in the vast majority of cases, a prescription for medication that would then alleviate your discomfort and/or your symptoms. This school of thought led to the emergence and



proliferation of the pharmaceutical industry. The public began to feel, and be taught, that the suppression of symptoms equaled good health. In other words, the public has been taught that when you no longer feel bad, then you must be healthy. Right? Wrong! This is dangerous thinking. It is an attitude that has created the multi-billion dollar pharmaceutical industry.

This present concept of health care rests on the idea of profiting from your illness and your symptoms. It has nothing to do with health care and has everything to do with profit. I realize that some of you may be quite disturbed by this line of thinking – allow me to explain: This present concept of health has also generated the idea of arriving at a correct diagnosis for which to prescribe a drug, or a series of drugs to deal with an illness. As a society, we have become obsessed with the idea of treating disease instead of regaining health. We have become a nation on medication. And that is not OK!

You may not have thought of this but the pharmaceutical industry has been a leader in defining the role Medicine plays in your health. Physicians have been indoctrinated to believe that the more pharmaceutical agents and drugs they use,

the healthier the population will become. As a matter of fact, you may be shocked to learn that doctors receive perks and free gifts such as trips, theatre tickets, cruises, dinners, etc., based on the quantity of drugs



they prescribe from certain manufacturers. "Better health through better chemistry" has become a motto of today. Drugs manifesting health - nothing could be further from the truth.

This thinking has been supported wholeheartedly by the medical associations of both Canada and the United States to the point where free and clear thinking by certain physicians has been thought of as heresy to the general "party line" and some doctors have been persecuted if they differ



in their thinking – much like a steam roller! Allow me to pose a question on this topic: Are the healthiest people on the planet taking the most...or no medications? Obviously, none! However, pharmaceuticals are continually being recommended to more and more people at earlier ages as a preventative basis as well. For example, a mom of one of my adolescent patients was advised to put her son on cholesterol medications at age 3 because he is overweight and "high cholesterol runs in the

family!” Again, this is not wellness. If it was, it would mean that we develop stomach problems due to a lack of Tums, or a headache from a lack of Tylenol, or high cholesterol from a lack of Lipitor, or worse yet – that it’s genetic!

Does anyone have research stating that our genes are programmed for disease and ill-health? I’d love a copy of it. It does not exist. We are genetically programmed for health and we are now living a lifestyle that does not reflect normal healthy function. Our body simply responds in an intelligent way (“symptoms”) to adapt to the stresses of our lives. Drugs just cover up those symptoms while you continue to maintain a poor lifestyle which means profits for the pharmaceutical industry. It’s time to change or face the same problems that your parents or grandparents or friends and family have.

Dr. Terry Rondberg, President of the World Chiropractic Alliance once said, *“As more and more people become aware of the failure of medicine to help them with their health problems, they are turning more and more to herbs and natural remedies to relieve their symptoms and combat their illnesses. In this manner, people are eliminating the dangerous side effects of drugs, but haven’t really changed their way of thinking about health.”*

We have been taught since we were children to think of instant health care. This essentially translates into “feeling better.” The old “take-a-pill-and-make-it-better” mentality is the biggest health care problem we face in North America.



Many people feel that as long as they take some sort of a potion or natural remedy that stops their nose running, they are healthy. They believe that if gulping down laxatives keeps them regular, they are

improving the condition of their body. And the public thinks that since these remedies are “natural”, they must be good for them. This is absolutely insane thinking. The basic idea, you see, is still the same. We are searching for a natural “**cure**” for our symptoms rather than dealing with the fact that they are present in the first place. As a population, we need to stop thinking in terms of treating illness and start thinking in terms of **creating health and Wellness**.

However, we have become such a drug-dependent society that the pharmacies are popping up on every street corner and are now offering their own “wellness programs” to encourage you to keep coming back for drugs. How do they do it? They offer points toward future purchases as incentives if you purchase more of their drugs. I surmise that the thinking for some of these program participants may be “Great, I’ve accumulated enough points to now buy those overpriced depends at my local pharmacy because I have bought so much medication for my urinary incontinence!” And the cycle continues...



Health (not just the absence of symptoms) is something that we create from the inside of our body. It is not something we can achieve from taking a pill, an herb, or having the latest and newest surgical procedure. If we want to achieve health for ourselves and our children, our goal needs to be: **Make certain that our bodies are functioning the way they were meant to, normally, with nothing, and I mean absolutely nothing, interfering with that process.** That is the key.

Many people don’t realize that health is more than just the period between illnesses. It is also not the absence of symptoms. In other words, just because you

feel OK, doesn't mean you are healthy. It just means you feel OK and have no symptoms. That's all it means. It does not imply your body is working any better.



Health is judged, for example, by how your body is able to **adapt** to its own internal and external environment. If your body is exposed to some kind of germ or virus, for instance, and if it is working normally, it should be able to neutralize the effects of that bug, without you even being aware that this is taking place. This is called health.

If your body cannot adapt to such a situation, and handle it on its own, you may begin to get sick. The most amazing thing is that when your body is no longer able to handle such a situation, it will actually "talk" to you in a language you can easily understand and listen to - symptoms.

You see, to me health is like a candle that is lit when you are born and burns brightly throughout life. At the end, it flickers once, goes out, and that is it. And you've lived a life of your dreams. However, I have found in my practice that most people do not present with such an idealistic picture. In the vast majority of cases, this is what I would see: The candle is lit brightly at birth, it then has an ear infection, pneumonia, strep throat, tonsillitis, blows out a kidney here, has a heart attack there, liver failure, kidney stones, gall bladder, etc. Often it has to be rekindled and restarted. That's not health. That is merely getting by with as few symptoms and problems as one can possibly avoid.

The standard medical approach has always been to prescribe antibiotics, pain

remedies and all sorts of drugs to do the job your body was designed and programmed to do on its own. And most people do not realize and understand that those drugs do nothing to help your body regain its ability to perform its functions in the future. In fact, relying on these drugs will actually hinder your body's recovery. (Not to mention all the side effects that are associated with taking them.) There is no pill, potion or lotion on the face of this planet, which can possibly oversee the power of your own body to achieve Health! People do not realize that our normal state is to be healthy. Our aim then, as parents, should be to allow our children's bodies' and our own, to function with absolutely nothing interfering with that process.

That's health. It's that simple!
....And that is what Chiropractic is all about!

Let's lighten it up:

If this doesn't make you laugh or at least smile, you need to think seriously about getting professional help. Only happens when you are driving too fast...

Please...if you have any questions, or would like any information on any health topic, it would be my pleasure to help you! Talk with you next month.....

