

Booth # D-32

Defining Chiropractic Professional Identity: A Concept Analysis

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Abstract

Background: The concept of professional identity within chiropractic is often discussed and debated, however in the field to date, there is no formal definition of chiropractic professional identity (CPI). This article aims to create a coherent definition of CPI and to formalise the conceptual domains that may encompass it.

Methods: Using the Walker and Avant (2005) process, a concept analysis methodology was employed to clarify the diffuse concept of CPI. This method initially involved selecting the concept (CPI), determining the aims and purpose of the analysis, identifying concept uses, and defining attributes. This was achieved from a critical literature review of professional identity across health disciplines. Chiropractic-related model, borderline and contrary cases were used to exemplify characteristics of CPI. The antecedents required to inform CPI, consequences of having, and ways to measure the concept of CPI were evaluated.

Results: From the concept analysis data, CPI was found to encompass six broad attributes or domains: knowledge and understanding of professional ethics and standards of practice, chiropractic history, practice philosophy and motivations, the roles and expertise of a chiropractor, professional pride and attitude, and professional engagement and interaction behaviours. These domains were not mutually exclusive and may overlap.

Discussion/Conclusion: A conceptual definition of CPI may bring together members and groups within the profession and promote intra-professional understanding across other disciplines. The CPI definition derived from this concept analysis is: 'A chiropractor's self-perception and ownership of their practice philosophies, roles and functions, and their pride, engagement, and knowledge of their profession'.