

## **ASK THE CHIROPRACTOR**

### **Some chiropractors make house calls**

**Question:** I have had severe low-back pain and could not move out of my bed. I did not want to go to the emergency room. Had I called you or any chiropractor would you have come to my house to treat me?

**Answer:** House calls do still exist. Yes, I do make them myself under absolute needy circumstances. Among my colleagues there is a mixed opinion as to performing house calls. Unfortunately, there is always a concern for liability reasons.

When the call is from an existing patient it is easier to differentially diagnose a need for care versus at-home therapy. I always try to avoid home visits because my experience is that the majority of the ones I performed were either unnecessary or truly an emergency situation that required an ambulance or hospital attention.

A new-patient house call is rare because I usually have no background or history prior to the treatment of the patient. Most times I can give advice over the phone until they can get mobile enough to get into my office. I have no problem with treating a new patient at a home visit as long as I can perform testing that can

determine their status. Also, I avoid vicious pit bulls and untamed aggressive pets such as tigers and lions.

Our society has created rigid privacy controls that most people don't even request home visits anymore. Be assured that true caring and help is still available for the needy patient.

**Quote of the week:** "The answer to having a better life is not about getting a better life, it's just about changing how we see the one we have right now." –  
Angel Kyodo Williams