This project will look at the number of chiropractic visits needed to reach maximum medical improvement in patients with cervical spine pain. The treatments will be given by field clinicians who volunteered to participate in this study; these chiropractors specialize in cervical flexion distraction care. Each field study clinician will recruit up to 10 patients to participate in this study by informing consecutive new neck pain patients about the study. The clinician will examine and treat each patient based on his/her usual and customary treatment protocol. At every visit, the patient and clinician will complete surveys indicating symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment parameters. The patient will complete the study protocol when s/he reaches maximum medical improvement (MMI) equating with complete reduction of pain, return to pre-injury state, or three months of care (whichever comes first). At no time during the patient’s treatment period will s/he receive experimental treatments or a modified treatment schedule because of participation in this study. The data will be descriptively analyzed to assess the number of treatments necessary to MMI and any associated factors leading to a reduction in the time to MMI such as patient demographics or clinical symptoms, radicular/non-radicular symptoms, or treatment parameters. The number of treatments that each neck pain patient receives in a chiropractic office is thought to be dependent on many factors. However, no study has measured the number of cervical flexion distraction treatments to MMI in patients with neck pain nor defined the factors that might influence the number of treatments.

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