

1 **Clinical Practice Guideline: Nasium and Vertex X-ray Views**

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3 **Date of Implementation: February 9, 2006**

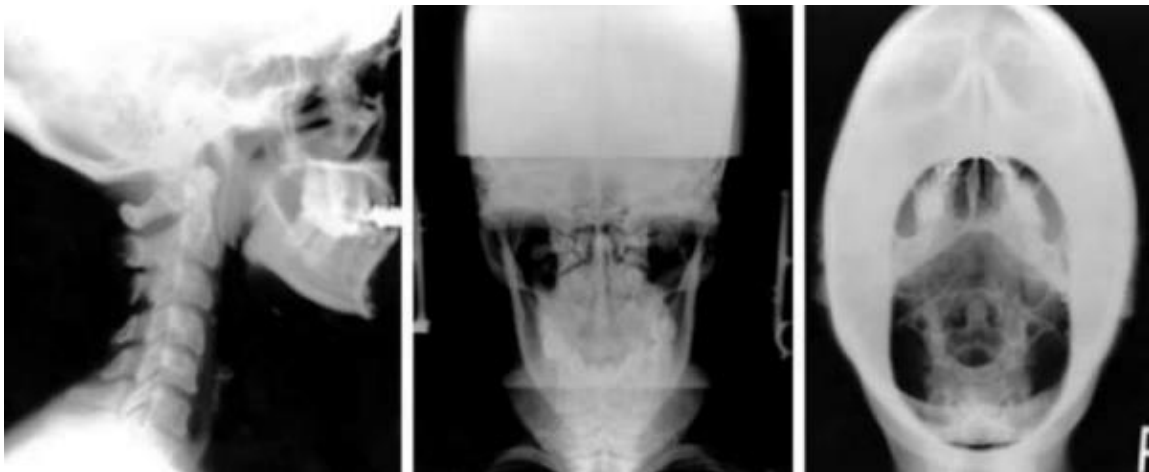
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5 **Product: Specialty**

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8 **GUIDELINES**

9 American Specialty Health – Specialty (ASH) considers Nasium and Vertex X-ray views  
10 acquired solely for the purpose of detection of chiropractic subluxation, spinal postural  
11 and/or segmental juxtaposition measurements as unproven. The evidence available fails to  
12 demonstrate adequate reliability, validity, unique clinical utility, and improved patient  
13 outcomes to counterbalance the risks they pose. For more information, see *ASH X-Ray*  
14 *Guidelines (CPG 1 – S)* and *Radiographic Quality and Safety Parameters (CPG 102 – S)*  
15 clinical practice guidelines.

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17 **DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND**

18 Certain upper cervical specific adjusting techniques may include obtaining and evaluating  
19 Nasium and Vertex x-ray views (as well as additional views, depending on the technique).  
20 Practitioners of such x-ray dependent techniques believe these views enable one to  
21 optimally visualize the position of the atlas (first cervical vertebra). Proponents claim this  
22 information permits them to better adjust the patient’s upper cervical subluxation(s) as  
23 demonstrated on the x-ray films. Both views involve significant radiation exposure to vital  
24 tissues such as the brain and, for the Nasium view, the eyes. Some techniques also require  
25 repeated x-rays (pre- and post-treatment films) that expose the patient to additional ionizing  
26 radiation.



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29 From left to right (Sagittal or Lateral, Frontal or Nasium, Horizontal or Vertex)

1 **THE ATLAS ORTHOGONAL RADIOGRAPHS**

2 Practitioners of these x-ray-driven upper cervical techniques believe the Nasium and  
3 Vertex views provide the most accurate information about specific vertebral positioning  
4 for adjusting (pre-treatment films) as well as confirming the subluxation has been removed  
5 (post-treatment films). Given the proximity of the brain and spinal cord to the upper  
6 cervical vertebrae, some techniques place a greater emphasis on the alleged value of using  
7 x-rays to identify subluxations (vs. other less invasive methods) than they do to the known  
8 health risks of ionizing radiation.

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10 **EVIDENCE REVIEW**

11 Based on the review conducted, ASH is unaware of any valid, published, peer reviewed  
12 studies sufficiently supporting the diagnostic utility of this specific procedure or any  
13 evidence on the clinical effectiveness of interventions using this technique.

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15 **References**

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