



Council
1 November 2017
Review of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*

Classification	Public
Purpose	For decision
Issue	An update on the consultation on the revised <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i>
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To note the progress of the consultation on updated <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i>.2. To agree the timetable for approval of the revised <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> outlined in paragraphs 15 and 16.
Financial and resourcing implications	The review so far has been within budget allocations. Consultation and engagement, including the preparation of documentation is accounted for in the 2017-18 budget. The equality impact assessment advice has also been accounted for within the budgets.
Equality and diversity implications	An equality impact assessment has been developed by an independent consultant, and will be updated throughout the development of updated standards.
Communications implications	The consultation process is being regularly promoted to osteopaths and other stakeholders using a range of media. Weekly updates are considered by the project team and used to adapt our social media messages and channels throughout the consultation to maximise the reach to our stakeholders. A draft communications strategy to introduce the updated revised standards before they come into force in 2019 is being developed.
Annex	None
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Background

1. At its meeting of 18 July 2017, Council agreed the updated *Osteopathic Practice Standards* for consultation, and the consultation strategy.
2. The consultation was launched on 1 August 2017 as planned, and will run until 31 October 2017.
3. In the report to Council on 18 July, it was stated that final approval to the updated *Osteopathic Practice Standards* will be sought from Council in either February or May 2018, depending on the extent of any post consultation changes, and the need for further input of the Policy Advisory Committee.

Discussion

The consultation

4. The consultation is being conducted via a dedicated website: <http://standards.osteopathy.org.uk/>. The updated *Osteopathic Practice Standards* and the consultation questions are presented on the site, as well as being downloadable in separate PDF documents. Responses to the consultation questions can be made via response pages on the website, and it is made clear that respondents do not have to answer all of the questions unless they wish to. The design of the site enables respondents to easily select the appropriate questions without having to progress through all of them. There is a tick-box response for those who are happy with the updated standards, and have no further comments to make. We also welcome comments via email to standards@osteopathy.org.uk, and provide hard copies of the consultation and standards to anyone who requests it.
5. Weekly summaries of the consultation process are prepared, and a synthesis of responses is collated. Up to and including week nine of the consultation, we had received 158 responses via the website, and 73 by direct email.
6. The consultation is being promoted via social media and in *The Osteopath*, e-bulletins and direct emails, and the reach of the consultation is being monitored. For example:
 - The consultation website has had 1,181 visitors from launch date to week nine, who spend an average of 3.45 minutes on the website.
 - For the latest email sent to osteopaths and others regarding the consultation, 5,371 were successfully delivered (97.8%), and 4,890 of these were opened by the recipients.
 - Our latest Facebook post promoting the consultation reached 1,333 people, and resulted in 409 views of the consultation video and 76 'post clicks'.
 - The top performing Facebook post was a link to the consultation video, which resulted in 834 views.

- We have had 30 requests for 'toolkits', which is a presentation and documentation to enable groups to run their own sessions to engage with the consultation.

Stakeholder engagement

7. A range of stakeholder engagement is taking place as part of the consultation strategy. This includes:
 - Patient focus group
 - Meeting with osteopathic educational institutions
 - Presentation to senior faculty members at the University College of Osteopathy
 - Presentations to regional osteopathic groups (Scotland, London, Kent and East Sussex, Wessex, Western Counties, Bedfordshire)
 - Presentations with students (BCOM, Swansea)
 - Direct feedback from policy officer on the GMC standards and ethics team
 - Web meeting with registration assessors/education visitors
 - GOsC stand at the iO annual convention.

Interim feedback

8. We are not at the conclusion of the consultation at present, and this update is presented to Council as a flavour of progress so far to help to inform Council about the need for further consideration at the PAC ahead of a Council decision.
9. As indicated in paragraph 5 above, there are two standards which are drawing the majority of comments to date. These are:
 - B1 (*You must have sufficient and appropriate knowledge and skills to support your work as an osteopath*), and
 - C6 (Be aware of your role as a healthcare provider to promote public health).
10. In relation to B1, the issue centres around the guidance, which sets out what such knowledge and skills should include. Paragraph 1.2 of the guidance states that this should include; '*an understanding of osteopathic philosophy, principles and concepts of health, illness and disease, and the ability to apply this knowledge critically, in the care of patients*'. Some feel that referring to philosophy and principles within guidance is downgrading it, and suggest that it should be referenced in a standard (though philosophy is not mentioned within the current version of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*).
11. By the end of week nine of the consultation, we had received 156 website responses relating to this standard, of which 19 were supportive of the update as drafted, five suggested removing all reference to philosophy and principles, and the rest felt that philosophy and principles should be included within a standard. The majority of direct emails received related to this also, and are in favour of referring to osteopathic philosophy and principles within a standard. However, much of the engagement undertaken so far has been supportive of

this guidance. So it is clear that there are a range of views on this issue that will need to be considered ahead of a decision being made.

12. In relation to C6, the majority of responses received so far do not support the word 'promote' in relation to public health within this standard.
13. By the end of week seven of the consultation, we had received 163 website responses relating to the standard and its guidance. Of those, 30 were supportive of it as drafted, and 133 were opposed to the current wording suggesting revised wording of the standard to remove the word 'promote'. Again, a majority of the direct emails received were similarly against this standard as drafted, and suggesting revised wording. This matter has also featured in the face-to-face engagement with differing views emerging. Again, it is clear that there are a range of views on this issue that will need to be considered ahead of a decision being made.
14. A full analysis of responses will only be undertaken once the consultation has ended on 31 October 2017. A report will be prepared which will consider key themes arising, including the issues around B1 and C6 as set out above. Further input from the Stakeholder Reference Group will be sought with a meeting planned for 9 January 2018.

Timetable

15. In view, particularly, of the consistent nature of the responses in relation to standards B1 and C6, it is felt that detailed consultation outcomes and Stakeholder Reference Group recommendations should be considered by the Policy Advisory Committee at its meeting of 15 March 2018. A final version of the updated *Osteopathic Practice Standards* will then be submitted to Council at its meeting of 3 May 2018 for approval prior to publication. This recommendation was endorsed by the Policy Advisory Committee at its meeting of 10 October 2017.
16. The overall timetable for publication and implementation of the updated *Osteopathic Practice Standards* as agreed by Council at its meeting of 2 May 2017 remains unchanged, with publication planned for May 2018, and implementation from September 2019.

Equality Impact Assessment

17. An Equality Impact Assessment in relation to the updating of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards* was included with the report to Council at its meeting of 18 July 2017. This will be further updated following the consultation and will be reported back to Council at its meeting of 31 January 2018.

Recommendations:

1. To note the progress of the consultation on updated *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
2. To agree the timetable for approval of the revised *Osteopathic Practice Standards* outlined in paragraphs 15 and 16.