



General
Osteopathic
Council

Statement of changes to the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*

Under section 13(3) of the Osteopaths Act 1993 (as amended), the General Osteopathic Council must publicise any changes made to the Standard of Proficiency and provide a minimum of one year's notice before those changes take effect. The following is a summary of revisions to the Standard of Proficiency (currently comprising A1, B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2 and D3), and also to the Code of Practice. In the revised document, the Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice have been combined into one set of standards that comprise, simultaneously, both of these.

Current Standards of Proficiency	Proposed changes
A1. You must have well-developed interpersonal communication skills and the ability to adapt communication strategies to suit the specific needs of a patient.	This has been incorporated within the revised A2.
B1. You must understand osteopathic concepts and principles, and apply them critically to patient care.	This has been incorporated within with the guidance to revised B1.
B2. You must have sufficient knowledge and skills to support your work as an osteopath.	This becomes revised B1
C1. You must be able to conduct an osteopathic patient evaluation sufficient to make a working diagnosis and formulate a treatment plan.	This has been combined with the current C2 to form the revised C1.
C2. You must be able to formulate and deliver a justifiable osteopathic treatment plan or an alternative course of action.	This has been combined with the current C1 to form the revised C1.
D1. You must consider the contributions of other healthcare professionals to ensure best patient care.	This becomes revised D10 with modified wording.
D2. You must respond effectively to requirements for the production of high-quality written material and data.	This becomes revised C3 with modified wording.
D3. You must be capable of retrieving, processing and analysing information as necessary.	This standard is incorporated into revised B4 with modified wording.

Current Code of Practice	Proposed changes
A2. Listen to patients and respect their concerns and preferences.	This has been incorporated within the revised A1.

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A3. Give patients the information they need in a way that they can understand.	This remains as A3 but with modified wording.
A4. You must receive valid consent before examination and treatment.	This remains as A4 but with modified wording.
A5. Work in partnership with patients to find the best treatment for them.	This has been incorporated within revised A2.
A6. Support patients in caring for themselves to improve and maintain their own health.	This becomes A5, but with modified wording.
B3. Recognise and work within the limits of your training and competence.	This becomes revised B2.
B4. Keep your professional knowledge and skills up to date.	This becomes revised B3
C3. Care for your patients and do your best to understand their condition and improve their health.	This has been incorporated within the guidance to A2.
C4. Be polite and considerate with patients.	This has been incorporated within revised A1.
C5. Acknowledge your patients' individuality in how you treat them.	This has been incorporated within revised A1
C6. Respect your patients' dignity and modesty.	This becomes revised A6.
C7. Provide appropriate care and treatment.	This has been deleted as its intent is covered within the preceding revised standards.
C8. Ensure that your patient records are full, accurate and completed promptly.	This becomes revised C2 with modified wording.
C9. Act quickly to help patients and keep them from harm.	This becomes revised C4 with modified wording.
D4. Make sure your beliefs and values do not prejudice your patients' care.	This becomes revised A7.
D5. You must comply with equality and anti-discrimination laws.	This becomes revised D6 with modified wording.
D6. Respect your patients' rights to privacy and confidentiality.	This becomes revised D5 with additional wording.
D7. Be open and honest when dealing with patients and colleagues and respond quickly to complaints.	This has been separated into two revised standards which now form D3 and D4.
D8. Support colleagues and cooperate with them to enhance patient care.	This becomes revised D9.
D9. Keep comments about colleagues or other healthcare professionals honest, accurate and valid.	This has been incorporated within the guidance to revised D10.

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D10. Ensure that any problems with your own health do not affect your patients.	This becomes revised D11 with additional wording.
D11. Be aware of your role as a healthcare provider to promote public health.	This becomes revised C6 with modified wording.
D12. Take all necessary steps to control the spread of communicable diseases.	This now features within the guidance to revised C5.
D13 Comply with health and safety legislation.	This is now reflected in revised C5.
D14. Act with integrity in your professional practice.	This becomes D1 with modified wording.
D15. Be honest and trustworthy in your financial dealings, whether personal or professional.	This becomes D8 with modified wording.
D16. Do not abuse your professional standing.	This becomes D2 with additional wording.
D17. Uphold the reputation of the profession through your conduct.	This becomes D7 with additional wording.
D18 You must provide to the GOsC any important information about your conduct and competence.	This becomes D12 with additional wording.