

Education Committee
14 June 2011
Osteopathic Practice Standards

<u>Classification</u>	Public
<u>Purpose</u>	For information
<u>Issue</u>	<p>Following the conclusion of the Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS) consultation and consideration by the OPS Working Group, Council has agreed to publish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) GOsC's response to the consultation (including the OPS consultation analysis and equality impact assessment) b) A revised OPS document.
<u>Recommendations</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>TO ENDORSE</u>: the implementation requirements of the Osteopathic Practice Standards.
<u>Financial and resourcing implications</u>	The 2011/12 GOsC budget provides for the publication of a final OPS document and a programme of activities to support implementation.
<u>Equality and diversity implications</u>	An independent equality and diversity consultant reviewed the OPS document and the consultation process. The consultant's Report was considered by the OPS Working Group and Council and recommendations were implemented.
<u>Communications implications</u>	All stakeholders need to be aware of the new standards and the implications by 1 September 2012. This includes training of OEI staff to ensure they are able to assess to new standards.
<u>Annexes</u>	None.
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Background

2. Strategic Objectives 1 and 2 in the GOsC Corporate Plan require the GOsC to review and publish a revised Code of Practice (CoP) and Standard of Proficiency (SoP).
3. Following a period of development and consultation, the Council agreed the final text for the Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS) on 12 April 2011. The OPS comprises both a new Standard of Proficiency and a new Code of Practice for osteopaths and it will take effect on 1 September 2012.
4. The presentation of the Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice has radically changed in terms of merging the two documents to form the OPS, clearly separating required standards from recommended guidance and improving the language. However, the standards and guidance provided in the OPS does not differ greatly to that provided in the existing SoP and CoP.
5. The standards in the OPS are now more high level statements, supported by guidance that outlines how each standard can be met. The guidance is less prescriptive than in the existing SoP and CoP. The repetition previously encountered in the Standard of Proficiency has also been removed.
6. The document focuses on four key themes, which relate to the proposed revalidation themes. This will allow osteopaths to clearly relate the standards to their own practice.

Discussion

7. Now that it has been agreed that the OPS will be published, there are a number of implementation activities to be undertaken ahead of the standards coming into force on 1 September 2012. Much of this requires support for the profession but support will also be required for osteopathic education institutions (OEIs).

The profession

8. To support the profession, the GOsC is developing a clear communication strategy to inform osteopaths about the OPS. It will ensure osteopaths understand the changes to the standards and that they take effect on 1 September 2012. Other measures will ensure that osteopaths understand how to meet the standards in practice.
9. Articles focussing on each of the specific themes of the OPS will appear in every edition of The Osteopath magazine over the next 16 months leading up to the implementation date. These articles will be supplemented by monthly e-bulletins and content on the GOsC website.

10. However, a focus is also being developed around activities that osteopaths can engage in. Many osteopaths are thought to be kinaesthetic learners. It is hoped that a focus on activities that osteopaths can do will assist with a more effective strategy to enable implementation of the OPS.
11. The GOsC is developing an e-learning strategy to provide online learning for osteopaths, which it hopes will be available later this year. If so, this can also be used to provide education to osteopaths about the new standards. A progress update will be provided to the Committee at its next meeting.
12. The GOsC is also considering the launch of the 'Critical Cs' programme, which it delivered 2005. This was a training course designed for osteopaths and delivered by osteopaths, which focused on communication, consent, case history taking and confidentiality – areas of practice which are important to osteopaths.
13. The OEIs may also provide CPD that focuses on the new standards to osteopaths and the alumni. This was raised with them at the last GOsC/OEI meeting.

Osteopathic education

14. All OEIs will need to ensure that their graduates attain the new standards to achieve a Recognised Qualification (RQ).
15. The GOsC requires all OEI course curricula to be mapped to the standards. All OEIs will need to update their curricula by the start of the new academic year in 2012. As mentioned, the standards themselves are not dramatically different and so it is not envisaged that the mapping exercise will be a major task, but OEIs will be in a better position to advise on this.
16. OEIs will need to ensure that all staff and students are aware of the new standards and that they will be assessed to this level.
17. The GOsC will liaise directly with the OEIs that are subject to an RQ review shortly before the new standards take effect. This is to ensure they clearly understand what progress with mapping will be expected at the time of the RQ review. The closer that the review to the OPS effective date - 1 September 2012- , the more progress that the GOsC will expect to see in mapping curricula and training staff/assessors.

GOsC implementation requirements

Quality Assurance (QA)

18. The GOsC will need to ensure that QA activities are also mapped to the new standards. We will amend all references in our written materials and provide training for all QAA visitors during 2012.
19. This will coincide with the new process for QA becoming fully effective in June/September 2012. The Education Committee will discuss the appointments process in December 2011.

Recalibration of registration assessments

20. We plan to publish an invitation to tender to appoint a third party to review our registration assessment procedures against the new standards and to provide training to the GOsC registration assessors to ensure that all registration assessments are made against the new standards from 1 September 2012.. The tender is scheduled for launch in Autumn 2011. This is an area that is close to osteopathic education and the OEIs have been encouraged to discuss whether this is something that they may wish to support individually or as a consortium.

Recommendations

21. TO ENDORSE: the planned implementation for the Osteopathic Practice Standards.