

**Education Committee  
16 September 2010  
Public session  
Code of Practice/Standard of Proficiency Update**

<b><u>Classification</u></b>	Public
<b><u>Purpose</u></b>	To note
<b><u>Issues</u></b>	This paper provides an update on work that has been undertaken in relation to the revision of the Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice.
<b><u>Financial &amp; Resourcing Implications</u></b>	None
<b><u>Equality &amp; Diversity Implications</u></b>	None
<b><u>Communications Implications</u></b>	In particular, osteopath members of the Education Committee may be approached for their views on this consultation. Committee members should be familiar with the consultation document and process being employed by the GOsC.
<b><u>Annexes</u></b>	None

## **Summary**

1. This paper provides an update on work that has been undertaken in relation to the revision of the Standard of Proficiency and Code of Practice.

## **Background**

2. Council is required by the Osteopaths Act 1993 (the Act) to:
  - a. Determine the Standard of Proficiency required for the competent and safe practice of osteopathy and publish a statement of that standard<sup>1</sup>.
  - b. Publish a Code of Practice laying down the standards of conduct and practice expected of a registered osteopath and give guidance in relation to the practice of osteopathy<sup>2</sup>.
3. The current Standard of Proficiency, *Standard 2000* (standard) was published in March 1999 and came into force in March 2000. The current Code of Practice (Code) was published and came into effect in May 2005. Both documents were recently revised within working parties established by Council. A consultation on the draft Standard of Proficiency (Standard), which is entitled Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS), took place from November 2008 – July 2009, with a consultation report produced in December 2009. The report was considered by Council at its meeting in January 2010. The revised Code has not been consulted on at this stage, although feedback from the profession was invited by the Council prior to its drafting.
4. Whilst developed separately, in January 2010, Council considered the relationship of these two documents and the proposal that they be published together in one document. Council agreed that there was value in having both the Code and Standard incorporated into a single document. This single document would then be made available for consultation.
5. These documents were developed with input from Council, the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Working Group and the former Code of Practice working group. Council approved the final text of this document at its meeting of 13 July 2010
6. The document has been formatted and an umbrella title of 'Osteopathic Practice Standards' has been given to combine both the Code and the Standard under one heading.
7. The format of the document mirrors that of the draft Revalidation Standards and Evidence Framework and is split into four Domains under which both Code and Standard statements are grouped, namely:

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<sup>1</sup> Osteopaths Act 1993, section 13

<sup>2</sup> Osteopaths Act 1993, section 19

- A. Communication and Patient Partnership
- B. Knowledge, Skills and Performance
- C. Safety and Quality in Practice
- D. Professionalism

### *Consultation*

8. The consultation on this document commenced formally on 1 September 2010 and will run until 30 November 2010. The consultation is available for all our stakeholders to access online (insert ref), which paper versions available on request for those who are unable to access the online consultation. The questionnaire will ask questions regarding the respondent and their background to ensure that we gather feedback from as diverse a population as possible.
9. Responses to the consultation are forwarded directly to our independent consultant Hewell, Taylor, Freed & Associates. The consultant has been asked to guarantee specific feedback from all of our stakeholders including patients, public, osteopaths and osteopathic educational institutions.
10. This will be achieved in a number of ways as follows:
  - a. Online consultation available to all via the GOsC website. Letters sent to all of the osteopathic profession and various stakeholders drawing their attention to the consultation.
  - b. Principals of OEIs contacted directly via the telephone for their opinion – asked to encourage students to participate in consultation
  - c. 100 telephone interviews with a representative stratified sample of the profession, drawing upon information we hold on age, sex and location. All osteopaths in Northern Ireland will be contacted by telephone to ensure a response from this region of the UK.
  - d. 20 face to face meetings with osteopaths and 1 with the BOA
  - e. 14 focus group meetings distributed around the country including Wales and Scotland. 2 focus groups will target Fitness to Practice Committee and panel members; remaining will be consulting osteopaths; will take into account rural and city locations. Two groups will have a specific focus on equality and diversity issues surrounding implementation of revised document and this will be advertised in advance.
  - f. Around 30 patient/consumer representative organisations have been contacted to inform them of the online consultation and 17 groups will be targeted directly via telephone interviews.

11. Invitations to those selected for telephone interviews, face to face meetings and focus groups have already been issued. These will all commence in September and continue for the duration of the consultation period.
12. Committee members are asked to encourage participation in the consultation exercise wherever possible. If any questions are raised which a Committee member is unable to answer, then please direct the question to Marcus Dye, Professional Standards Manager on 020 7357 6655 ext 240 or email [marcusd@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:marcusd@osteopathy.org.uk)

### **Next Steps**

13. Hewell Taylor Freed & Associates will produce an analysis report for January 2011. It is intended that this report will be considered by a sub-group of Council and executive staff who will be asked to make recommendations for Council to consider at its meeting of 3 February 2011.