

Education Committee
15 December 2011
Response to GMC Consultation on Good Medical Practice

<u>Classification</u>	Public
<u>Purpose</u>	For decision
<u>Issue</u>	The core ethical standards for doctors are contained in their publication <i>Good Medical Practice</i> . It was last published in 2006 and has been reviewed. The Committee are asked to agree a response to the consultation from the General Osteopathic Council.
<u>Recommendation</u>	To recommend to Council that they agree the draft response to the GMC's Good Medical Practice consultation.
<u>Financial and resourcing implications</u>	None.
<u>Equality and diversity implications</u>	None.
<u>Communications implications</u>	We publish all consultation responses on our website.
<u>Annexes</u>	Annex A – Draft Good Medical Practice 2012 Annex B – Proposed GOsC Response December 2012.
<u>Author</u>	Fiona Browne

Background

1. The GMC has a general legal power to provide advice for members of the medical profession on:
 - a. standards of professional conduct;
 - b. standards of professional performance; or
 - c. medical ethics.
2. The GMC does this through their primary publication, Good Medical Practice – the core standards of conduct and ethics which underpin everything they do including standards for undergraduate, foundation and postgraduate training. These are also the standards that are referred to in fitness to practise proceedings.
3. The GMC is consulting on a revised version of Good Medical Practice. This paper outlines a proposed response to the consultation.

Discussion

4. The consultation draft of Good Medical Practice is attached at Annex A.
5. We know from anecdotal evidence, and most recently from accounts provided by osteopaths at revalidation workshops and at local meetings attended by the Chief Executive, that osteopaths have mixed experiences in engaging with general practitioners about the care of their patients. Responses range from a good relationship to stories from patients about doctors ripping up letters from osteopaths in front of patients.
6. The consultation provides an opportunity for the General Osteopathic Council: to support the guidance; to emphasise the importance of respect for other professions and effective professional relationships throughout the patient journey; and to explain about osteopathy and osteopathic education and training.
7. A draft response is attached at Annex B. It takes the opportunity to highlight the issues outlined above.

Recommendation: to recommend to Council that they agree the draft response to the GMC's Good Medical Practice consultation.