

An introduction from Matthew Redford, Chief Executive and Registrar

This is the first ebulletin since my appointment as the GOsC permanent Chief Executive and Registrar, and I wanted to take the opportunity to reiterate how proud I am to be able to work together with osteopaths, patients and our stakeholders, to ensure we continue to protect the public.

And protection of the public through practising safely is certainly in sharp focus now in the context of the global pandemic. The risk of COVID-19 remains a current issue and necessitates the implementation of a range of measures to mitigate against the risk of infection and transmission. Returning to practice will need careful planning as it will not be a case of 'getting back to the old ways of working' for some time to come, if at all.

In thinking about a return to practice, I would again encourage you to read the GOsC [infection control guidance](#), as well as the [guidance from the professional membership body, the Institute of Osteopathy](#) (available to all on their website). These should be helpful in highlighting the approaches necessary to minimise risk to patients and others in the clinical environment.

Recently we have become aware that some osteopaths are concerned about how the infection control guidance can be implemented in a shared practice where there are differences of opinion with colleagues. We recognise this can be difficult and that some of you may feel uncomfortable making their case with colleagues. However, what is critical is ensuring that patient safety remains at the heart of what you do, and we have developed [a case study](#) to highlight some of the things you could consider in such a scenario.

And remember, familiarising yourself with, and reflecting upon, the infection control guidance and our case scenario will also count towards your CPD, with reflection being central to the CPD scheme.

Reflection is particularly relevant right now as recent tragic events from around the globe have shown. Within the GOsC, we have begun a safe-space conversation with our team



so that we can listen and hear views and feedback about how we might be able to enhance our approach through the perspective of equality, diversity and inclusion. We are very keen to listen to, and learn from, the experiences of our black, Asian and minority ethnic colleagues.

We also continue to work with colleagues across our inter-regulatory forums around equality, diversity and inclusion, in order to draw insight into our work. We are committed to ensuring that all our activities, as a regulator, a service provider and an employer, provide equality of opportunity. I would encourage you to read our [recent statement](#).

GOsC reiterates its commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion

We have reiterated our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion following recent tragic events from around the globe. [Read more](#)



Reminder: Renewing your registration

We are reminding osteopaths who were due to renew their registration in March, April and May, that if you have not yet renewed your registration, you will need to submit your online [renewal form](#) as soon as possible, as your registration is now overdue. If your renewal is due in June, July or August, you can go online and renew your registration any time from now until your registration is due.

If your registration status is non-practising, you will still need to renew your registration. If you are now returning to practice, remember to inform your insurance provider and contact us at registration@osteopathy.org.uk to update your status. [Log on to the o zone for more information on renewing](#)



Patient safety in a shared practice

Where osteopaths practise together, or with other healthcare practitioners, tensions may arise as to the implementation of our infection control guidance and other necessary measures at this time. These may lead to some difficult conversations with colleagues. Our case study looks at some steps you can take to minimise patient risk. [Read more](#)



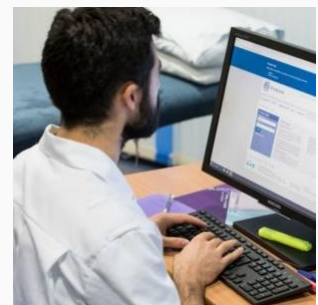
Update on Fitness to Practise activities

Soon after lockdown, the GOsC took the decision to postpone until after 3 July 2020 all final hearings that had not yet commenced. We have been exploring how we can progress cases given that social distancing measures may be in place for an extended period of time. To meet our public protection duties, we have identified those hearings which need to take precedence. We have reviewed all cases awaiting consideration by the Professional Conduct Committee and have identified those which can be heard in a virtual capacity. [Read more](#)



Requesting registration certificates and ID cards

Currently, with our staff working remotely, we are unable to provide a paper copy of your annual certificate and ID card. If you are seeking a copy for verification purposes, we encourage you to provide your GOsC Registration number along with a link to the Register – osteopathy.org.uk/register-search instead of the paper copy. The Register is updated daily and your inclusion on the Register is proof of your status as an osteopath.



Using professional judgement

The GOsC is reminding osteopaths of the importance of following infection control guidance and using professional judgement when considering treatment options with patients. Fiona Browne, GOsC's Director of Education, Standards and Development, has provided an overview of our Infection control guidance and the use of professional judgement. [Read more](#)



The latest COVID-19 guidance from the GOsC

You can find all our latest updates plus key advice from government and other useful information collated together on the [COVID-19 section of our website](#).



Learn with others and stay connected

We are keen to help you keep in touch with others in this time of social isolation. Engagement, support and community are key features of the CPD scheme and there are lots of ways to continue to do CPD, with others and for free. [Find out more](#)



Reporting your CPD

Unlike the previous CPD scheme, there is no longer a need to submit an annual CPD summary form with all the details of your CPD activities; you now just need to declare the number of hours you have done on your Renewal of Registration form (available on the **o** zone) and say which features of the scheme you have completed that year. Remember, this CPD should be recorded and reflected upon. [Read more](#)

You might also want to have a look at the [March/April issue of The Osteopath](#) which has a detailed article about keeping CPD records.



Looking after your mental health

Taking the time to take care of your own mental health and wellbeing is always important, and even more so during these challenging circumstances. We have collated some free resources that you might find helpful. [Read more](#)



Don't forget your insurance

You need Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) whether you're seeing patients or not. This legislation protects patients and ensures you're indemnified against liabilities. If you change your status to 'non-practising' (ie you're not seeing or speaking to patients), you need to have 'run-off' cover. You'll need to discuss this with your insurance provider. Also, you will need to make sure that you update all your insurers about your intention to return to practise and how you will practice, if you make this decision. [Find out more](#)



Updating your websites

We've been getting a large number of requests for Registration Marks from osteopaths who have been using this time to update their websites. If you want to promote your GOSC registration online, individual osteopaths can apply for an 'I'm Registered' Mark, which includes your unique GOSC registration number, and if you're the principal osteopath of a group practice you can apply for a 'We're Registered' Mark.

[Find out more via the o zone](#)



Any queries or feedback?

If you have any COVID-19 related queries, you may find the answer on the [COVID-19 section of our website](#). If you can't find the answer you are looking for, or if you have suggestions or feedback for us, please email: covid19@osteopathy.org.uk. For other queries or feedback not related to COVID-19, you can contact us via info@osteopathy.org.uk