

COVID-19 Update

A message from Matthew Redford, Acting Chief Executive and Registrar

When I wrote to you last week it was before the Government had announced how the lockdown measures might be eased in the coming weeks and months ahead. At that time, I said that whatever was announced, it was clear that working practices will need to be refreshed. Over the past week, we have seen the UK and Devolved Governments issue similar but differing statements, and you might be wondering what this means for you, your patients and your working practices.



Some of the lockdown measures around returning to work, social distancing and frequency of exercise have been eased in England, but this is not the same for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

I believe it is important to again set out our position, which has not changed during this pandemic. There is currently no prohibition on osteopathic practice. This means osteopaths, as healthcare professionals, can exercise their own professional judgement about practising taking into consideration all the available evidence and guidance.

Following the recent announcements, we have issued updates to our [Statement about Osteopathic Practice](#) and [Interim Infection Control Guidance](#).

I would encourage you to refresh your familiarity with these documents.

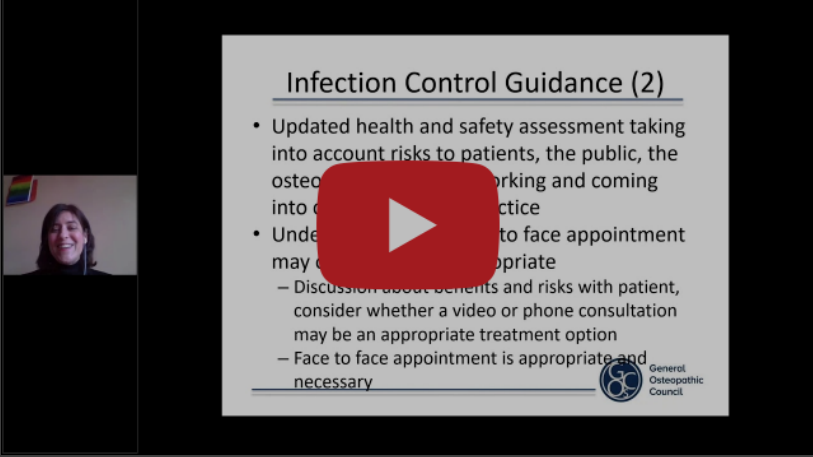
The infection control guidance states that you should:

- be aware of Government and other guidance
- undertake an updated health and safety assessment
- consider undertaking phone or video consultations
- understand when a face-to-face appointment may or may not be appropriate
- put in place infection control procedures for face-to-face consultations
- document your consultations

We have also produced [separate guidance about remote consultations](#).

We will all need to make adaptations to how we work in the future. If you haven't already, I would

encourage you to take advantage of the guidance issued this week by the professional membership body, the Institute of Osteopathy (iO), on [adapting your practice](#). The advice is available to all on their website and isn't just for iO members. It features a quick guide and checklist for adapting your practice, as well as infection control and PPE guidance. Along with this guidance, please do ensure that you remain up-to-date with the advice we have collated on the [COVID-19 section](#) of our website. And finally, I would like to draw your attention to this short explanation from Fiona Browne, Director of Education, Professional Standards and Development, where Fiona talks through the Interim Infection Control Guidance which I hope you will find to be a useful resource.



Fiona Browne discussing the Interim Infection Control Guidance

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](#).



CORONAVIRUS:
LATEST
GUIDANCE

GOsC Council meets virtually

GOsC held a virtual [Council](#) meeting on Monday 11 May, with Dr Bill Gunnyeon (pictured) chairing the meeting. The meeting was also attended by [new Council members](#) Daniel Bailey, Caroline Guy (osteopath members) and Professor Deborah Bowman (lay member). The main item on [the agenda](#) was the impact of, and the GOsC's response to, COVID-19.



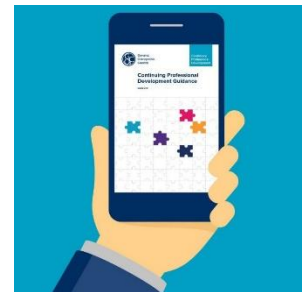
Learn with others and stay connected

We have been asked by a number of osteopaths about how they can do their CPD and especially 'learning with others' during the current situation. We are keen to help you keep in touch with others in this time of social isolation. Indeed 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](#)



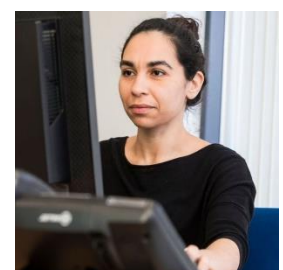
Osteopaths warned over COVID-19 advertising

The GOsC continues to warn osteopaths not to claim or imply that osteopathic treatment could help boost the immune system in patients suffering from COVID-19. Claiming in any promotional material or online content that osteopathy has a part to play in the frontline care of patients with COVID-19, is likely to breach [Advertising Standards Authority \(ASA\) guidance](#) or trading standards law (which is enforced by local councils). [Read the news story](#)



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](#)



Read previous issues of The Osteopath

Take a look at the back catalogue of The Osteopath magazine for tips on carrying out your CPD, practical guidance on the Osteopathic Practice Standards, the latest research, and more. [Read more](#)



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.