



Education and Registration Standards Committee
25 June 2014
Professional Values

Classification	Public
Purpose	For noting
Issue	Professional values – first steps towards the review of the <i>Osteopathic Practice Standards</i> .
Recommendation	To note the proposal for a seminar about professional values in autumn 2014.
Financial and resourcing implications	The costs of the seminar are expected to be in the region of £2500 (including venue and refreshments) for 40 people and have been incorporated into the Professional Standards budget.
Equality and diversity implications	Equality and diversity matters will be considered as part of the interactive sessions in the Values seminar.
Communications implications	We will communicate our work on values to registrants and others through our usual channels including the osteopath and to our key stakeholder groups.
Annex	None
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Background

1. Our Corporate Plan 2013 to 2016 states that we will 'encourage and facilitate continuous improvement in the quality of osteopathic healthcare.'
2. Our Business Plan 2014/2015 states that we will scope the review of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*. We have also stated that we will work in partnership with patients, the British Osteopathic Association (BOA), the Council for Osteopathic Educational Institutions (COEI) and the Osteopathic Alliance (OA) to explore the need for a common statement of osteopathic values to support the review of the next edition of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
3. This paper reports out progress in working with stakeholders on professional values as a foundation to the scoping of the review of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.

Discussion

4. In 2012, Professor Della Freeth undertook some research on the preparedness for practice of osteopathic practice. Amongst other things, the research recognises the self-reported diversity of the osteopathic profession. The research illustrates themes of: diversity, variability, uncertainty and isolation in relation to the educational experience of students within and between educational institutions; the perceptions of the abilities of newly registered graduates; and experiences of mentorship. The research also reports themes of autonomy and isolation. This includes preparation for autonomous and possibly isolated practice during education and the experience of autonomy in that many osteopaths work primarily independently. Those moving to group practice may also have had experiences of working independently, perhaps with variability in the amount of support provided by colleagues. It noted that the 'ultimate extension of autonomy is isolation and a discourse of isolation also permeated the data.'
5. Recent research with Sue Roff and the osteopathic educational institutions shows a range of views about the seriousness of lapses in professionalism or breaches of standards, illustrated in scenarios, suggesting that standards may be applied inconsistently with varying perspectives about 'seriousness' and 'interpretation'.
6. In November 2013, the GOsC held a seminar about changing culture with key note speakers including Stephen Tyreman, Professor of Osteopathy and Philosophy and Hilary Jones, Dean of Health at Staffordshire University. Feedback from the seminar noted that values (either patients or clinicians) are not explored in undergraduate osteopathic education and that there was a need to better understand values as they relate to the interpretation of standards. (A note of this seminar is available to Committee members on request from Fiona Browne - fbrowne@osteopathy.org.uk). Feedback from the seminar indicated that many participants felt that values should be explored further in osteopathy.

7. These findings and views, taken together with the importance of person centred care and the culture change as recognised in the Francis and the Berwick reports, along with the independent and sometimes isolated nature of osteopathic practice has led us to suggest that further debate and discussion about the explicit values underpinning the interpretation of standards is important as we embark on our review of the *Osteopathic Practice Standards*.
8. We have been working with Stephen Tyreman, Professor of Osteopathy and Philosophy at the University of Bedfordshire and Professor Bill Fulford, former consultant psychiatrist and expert in values based practice, St Catherine's college, University of Oxford, to explore how we might frame expert debate and discussion in this area.
9. Consequently, we are developing a seminar based work shop with key thinkers across the osteopathic profession and more broadly to better understand what we mean by the term 'values', the interaction between patients, osteopaths and their environment and the foundations for appropriate professional standards. It is hoped that the seminar will provide an opportunity for all participants to better understand and debate the nature of values as part of osteopathic practice to support commencement of more detailed work ultimately to continually enhance patient care.
10. We are inviting a range of no more than forty individuals including: patients; people from osteopathic education, osteopathy (including professional and special interest associations); professional associations; and external experts from the fields of health and regulation. The participants will work together on exercises to explore values, standards, different perspectives, conflicts and consensus.

Recommendation: to note the proposal for a seminar about professional values in autumn 2014.