



Consultation - guidance on the application of the Osteopathic Practice Standards in relation to the application of adjunctive therapies, non-osteopathic treatments or other work undertaken by osteopaths

Date

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About the General Osteopathic Council

The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) is the regulator for the osteopathic profession in the UK. Our role is to develop and regulate the profession of osteopathy which we do by setting standards of education, training, conduct and competence and keeping a Register of those who have qualified and met those standards. By law, osteopaths must be registered with us in order to practise in the UK; there are currently around 5,400 osteopaths.

One important aspect of our work is dealing with concerns and complaints about osteopaths. We have legal powers with clear and transparent processes to investigate and deal with osteopaths who may fall short of the standards we have set.

The consultation

In this consultation, we are inviting views on our draft Guidance Note on Non-osteopathic treatment or other work. This aims to explain the relationship between the Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS) and the range and breadth of osteopathic practice, adjunctive therapies, and other forms of care and treatment provided by osteopaths, as well as non-osteopathic work. We have used case scenarios to highlight some of the issues which may arise.

The guidance may be useful for osteopaths considering how the OPS apply to all aspects of their work. It might also be helpful for patients and members of the public in understanding how osteopaths meet their professional obligations. It will also provide a reference for Fitness to Practise Committees in considering concerns regarding osteopaths who may have failed to meet the OPS.

Please read the draft guidance note before answering the consultation questions below.

How to respond

The deadline for responses to this consultation is XXXXXXXXXX 2022

You can send us your views by:

- emailing your [responses to the consultation](#) question to: standards@osteopathy.org.uk or
- calling 07388 601898

Information in responses, including personal information, may need to be published or disclosed under the access to information regimes (mainly the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the General Data Protection Regulation, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). We will publish a report about the

consultation and the responses we have received. If you would prefer your name not to be made public, please indicate this when sending us your views.

The GOsC is a data controller registered with the Information Commissioner's Office. We use personal data to support our work as the regulatory body for osteopaths. We may share data with third parties to meet our statutory aims and objectives, and when using our powers and meeting our responsibilities under the Osteopaths Act and the associated rules made under the Act. We may use personal data to update the Register, administer and maintain the Register, process complaints, compile statistics and keep stakeholders updated with information about our work.

Consultation questions

Draft Guidance on non-osteopathic treatment or other work

1. Your name or your organisation if replying on behalf of an organisation (optional)

2. Did you find the draft Guidance clear and accessible?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please provide any suggestions about how the draft guidance might be made clearer

3. Do you find the case scenarios helpful in explaining the issues outlined in the guidance?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please provide any additional comments regarding the case scenarios below:

4. Do you think that anything is missing from the draft guidance?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, please let us know below what you think should be added:

5. Do you think that the guidance could be enhanced in any way?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, please provide suggestions below:

6. Are there any implications for groups with specific protected characteristics as a result of this guidance?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please provide additional comments below

7. Are there any other equality, diversity or inclusion aspects which may be unfair or discriminate against people with particular protected characteristics?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please provide more information about these aspects and how any unfairness could be mitigated.

8. Do you consider that the approach proposed in this consultation supports our overarching objective of public protection? This includes:
- a. protecting, promoting and maintaining the health, safety and well-being of the public
 - b. promoting and maintaining public confidence in the profession of osteopathy
 - c. promoting and maintaining proper professional standards and conduct for osteopaths

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please provide additional comments below

As set out above, we are asking some specific questions that we would like responses to, but you are welcome to offer any other comments you wish.

All feedback will be taken into consideration.

Diversity questionnaire

We would like to ask some questions about you. Completing the diversity questionnaire is optional but we would welcome information about our respondents. We ask for this information to help us analyse the consultation responses to help ensure we are not inadvertently discriminating against any particular group. We are also required as an organisation to monitor diversity.

It would be very helpful to us if you would provide this information. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

Please complete the [diversity questionnaire](#)

Thank you for your response to this consultation