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**Draft Guidance for the Health Committee: Formulating Conditions of Practice Orders**

**7 July to 6 October 2015**

**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 around 5,000 registered osteopaths.

**The consultation**

The GOsC is consulting on guidance to assist the decision-making of the Health Committee in cases in which it is considered appropriate to implement a Conditions of Practice Order.

**About the Health Committee**

The Health Committee considers cases where an osteopath is alleged to be seriously impaired because of his/her physical or mental health at hearings. The procedures followed at the hearing are set out in the GOsC (Health Committee) (Procedure) Rules 2000 (HC Rules).

The Health Committee is able, in relevant cases, to impose conditions on an osteopath’s practice – a Conditions of Practice Order. The osteopath must comply with any conditions imposed whilst continuing to practise as an osteopath. The overriding purpose of conditions is to provide protection to the public, while allowing an osteopath to seek and follow appropriate treatment. When it has decided that a Conditions of Practice Order is the most appropriate and proportionate sanction, the Health Committee will need to formulate detailed conditions that will achieve this aim.

Conditions need to address the specific risks or shortcomings identified in the case and should be drafted so that osteopaths understand clearly what is expected of them, and the timescales for compliance. Conditions also need to be monitored, measurable and attainable so that a future Health Committee panel can consider osteopaths’ compliance with the conditions.

In his report to the GOsC Council in November 2014, the Chair of the Health Committee noted that the Committee had dealt with a number of types of health issues including bipolar affective disorder, personality disorder, substance misuse depression and hypomania, alcohol dependence and paranoid schizophrenia. He also noted that while the number of cases which have been determined at a full Health Committee hearing remains low at present, it would be prudent to have in place a bank of conditions to assist the Committee as the cases work through the system.

The [draft Guidance for the Health Committee: Formulating Conditions of Practice Orders](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/consultations/formulating-conditions-of-practice-orders-draft-guidance/) has been developed in consultation with members of the GOsC Osteopathic Practice and Health Committees, and in discussion with representatives from the Institute of Osteopathy. We are now seeking wider views on this draft guidance.

The consultation will run from 7 July to 6 October 2015.

**How to respond**

Please complete this form and return it to us by email to: [regulation@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:regulation@osteopathy.org.uk) or by post to:

Formulating Conditions of Practice Orders consultation

General Osteopathic Council

Osteopathy House

176 Tower Bridge Road

London

SE1 3LU

Copies of the draft Guidance for the Health Committee: Formulating Conditions of Practice Orders, and this consultation response form, are also available on request in other formats by contacting the GOsC via email at: [regulation@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:regulation@osteopathy.org.uk) or 020 7357 6655 x224.

We are asking some specific questions that we would like responses to, but you are welcome to offer any comments you wish. All feedback will be taken into consideration.

We will publish a report about the consultation and the responses we have received.   
If you would prefer your response not to be made public, please indicate this when sending us your views.

The deadline for responses to this consultation is **6 October** **2015.**

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Thank you.

**Consultation Questions:**

1. Name of individual or organisation (optional)

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1. Are you happy for the GOsC to publish your response to this consultation?

Happy for GOsC to publish my response

I would prefer my response to be published in a non-attributable form

1. Are the conditions appropriate given the healthcare settings/work environment in which osteopaths practice?

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

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1. Do you have any suggestions on how we can improve the conditions bank?

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

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1. Do you think the conditions bank will assist in improving public confidence in our processes?

Yes

No

If no, please set out your reasons and any suggestions for improvement.

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1. Please provide us with any other comments you may have.

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**Thank you for your response to this consultation.**

We would also like to ask some questions about you. Completing [the diversity questionnaire](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/news-and-resources/document-library/consultations/formulating-conditions-of-practice-equality-form/) is optional, but we would welcome information about our respondents.  
The information you provide will only be used for the purposes of analysing the consultation responses.