

**Education Committee**  
**27 November 2012**  
**Osteopathic Practice Standards Implementation - Update**

<b>Classification</b>	Public
<b>Purpose</b>	For noting
<b>Issue</b>	The GOsC is currently undertaking a range of implementation activities in relation to the Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS). This paper provides an update on the implementation programme since 20 September 2012.
<b>Recommendation</b>	A. To note the progress made with the OPS Implementation Strategy.
<b>Financial and resourcing implications</b>	None arising from this paper.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	None arising from this paper.
<b>Communications implications</b>	None arising from this paper.
<b>Annex</b>	Annex A - Feedback from Registration Assessor training
<b>Author</b>	Marcus Dye

## Background

1. The GOsC published its new Osteopathic Practice Standards (OPS) on 1 July 2011; these took effect on 1 September 2012. The intervening period was used by the GOsC to ensure that all relevant stakeholders were aware of the new standards. The implementation strategy also looks to support osteopaths, Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs) and students in meeting the standards from 1 September 2012 onwards. Finally, the GOsC also aimed to ensure that its policies and procedures, particularly registration assessments, were in line with the OPS by September 2012.
2. A copy of the Implementation Strategy was endorsed by the Education Committee at its meeting of 14 March 2012 and is available on the GOsC website: [http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/uploads/part\\_i\\_item\\_6\\_annex\\_a\\_-\\_osteopathic\\_practice\\_standards\\_implementation\\_update\\_-\\_implementation\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/uploads/part_i_item_6_annex_a_-_osteopathic_practice_standards_implementation_update_-_implementation_strategy.pdf)
3. This paper provides an update on the OPS Implementation work which has been carried out since the report of 20 September 2012.

## Educational support – quality assurance

4. The Professional Standards Manager presented the Osteopathic Practice Standards to academic and clinical faculty at the European School of Osteopathy on 23 September 2012.
5. As a result of this presentation, the GOsC is exploring with all Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs) the potential of direct support to educational staff in understanding and applying the standards in institutions. This was discussed at the OEI meeting on 14 November 2012 and will form a seminar item at the conclusion of the next OEI meeting in Spring 2013.

## Other work to support the implementation of the Osteopathic Practice Standards

### *Launch materials for the OPS*

6. The Professional Standards Manager has worked closely with the Communications department to produce and distribute materials to support the OPS coming into effect on 1 September. This includes:
  - a. Production of specific tailored letters to osteopaths, osteopathic educational institutions and Postgraduate providers/specialist organisations and the BOA.
  - b. Development and distribution of an information leaflet explaining the changes to the GOsC documentation from 1 September 2012.
  - c. Development and distribution of pocket guide to the OPS listing all 37 standards. This refers the reader back to the website and contains our

first use of QR codes technology allowing those users with a scanning app on their mobile to scan the code and access the website directly. Copies of these have also been produced to promote awareness of the standards for other stakeholders.

- d. A poster for OEIs to display in student and staff areas, patient clinics and intranet sites to raise awareness of the standards with students and staff.
7. Education Committee members will have received a copy of most of this information in August 2012. Copies of the main resources are available on the GOsC website: [www.osteopathy.org.uk/ozone/resources/publications-and-support-materials/Osteopathic-Practice-Standards](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/ozone/resources/publications-and-support-materials/Osteopathic-Practice-Standards).

*Development of the OPS support pages on the registrants' o zone website*

8. The Professional Standards Manager, Professional Standards Administrator and Regulation Officer have been working with an external consultant to develop a more complex interactive learning tool which will be based on case scenarios linked to previous GOsC Fitness to Practice (FTP) Committee findings and the relevant sections of the OPS. This will help close the loop between the identification of profession wide issue in FTP and feeding these into development/educational activities for osteopaths. As indicated above, these tools might provide a way to help osteopaths to demonstrate some of the more challenging standards that cannot currently be assessed in within the current registration assessments.

Videos of Regional conferences are now available on the OPS support pages and include the following presentations:

- a. *An Introduction to the OPS* – overview of OPS and GOsC implementation work given by Head of Regulation/Regulation Manager.
- b. *Risks and benefits – adverse events and outcomes in UK osteopathy* – a presentation of the findings of one of the GOsC funded research projects looking at risks, given by the research lead Steve Vogel (Vice Principal (Research and Quality) at the British School of Osteopathy).
- c. *Communicating benefits and risks effectively to patients* – presentation on practical ways in which osteopaths can communicate benefits and risks to patients led by Pippa Bark, Principal Research Fellow at University College London.

*Articles in The Osteopath magazine*

9. An article on the new consultation for Obtaining Consent – supplementary Guidance for Osteopaths was included in the October/November 2012 magazine.

**GOsC Registration Assessment Review**

10. Following the review of the GOsC registration assessments by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, training was held for all types of registration assessors on 19 September 2012. The feedback from this training was positive and a report is attached at Annex A.
11. Suggestions for further support and information needed included:
  - a. 'the finalised ACP assessment documents' – final copies to be issued to all assessors following final design.
  - b. 'ensuring there is sufficient time and energy to complete the paperwork on the day of the assessment' – to take account when scheduling assessments in conjunction with the assessors.
  - c. 'a forum of communication between those involved in the ACP and those in discussion with return to practice Osteopaths...' – this could potentially be achieved through an online forum or scheduled meetings/telephone conferences. The introduction of appraisal and regular training might provide this opportunity.
12. The GOsC website has now been updated with the new assessment materials including the guidelines and forms and these can be accessed here: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/practice/How-to-register-with-the-GOsC/>. Further work is being undertaken to make the structure of the Registration pages more accessible, including the information on assessment.

**Recommendation:**

- A. To note the progress made with the OPS Implementation Strategy.



**General Osteopathic Council Review: Training**

**19 September 2012**

**Analysis of Evaluation Questionnaires**

**from**

*The Research, Information and Enquiry team*

*October 2012*

**Report Prepared for:**

**Barbara Edwards**

**For further information please contact:**

**Hannah Minchew 7048**

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## **Appendix A**

## **General Osteopathic Council Review: Training**

### **1. Introduction**

The General Osteopathic Council Review training event was held on 19 September 2012. At the close of the event participants were requested to complete and return an evaluation questionnaire, comprised of 14 questions.

A total of 10 questionnaires were returned for analysis. This report provides an overview of the responses made by the participants. A list of responses provided by participants for the key learning points question is recorded in Appendix A.

### **2. Meeting aims**

The aims of the training were

- To summarise the project brief and the team's approach
- To explain the changes to the assessments
- To practise using the revised documents
- To obtain feedback and recommend next steps

### **3. Key learning points**

Respondents took a range of key learning points away from the event. They appreciated the opportunity to learn about processes that they were not involved in, the revision of guidelines, the clarification of criteria and an understanding of the differences between assessments/stages. The way the osteopathic practice standards are applied to the various assessment areas and the mapping of the assessment forms and documentation were key learning points.

In relation to the return to practice process respondents commented that it was less confrontational and more developmental, an open ended discussion and not as prescriptive as suggested.

Having sight of the evaluation documents relating to the assessment of clinical performance, the useful 'aide memoire', and the improvement in recording the assessment of clinical performance were all listed as key learning points. It was noted that further evidence of practice could be very time consuming.

### **4. Usefulness of the individual sessions**

One respondent commented that the sessions were 'useful in informing other participants about the process and listening to their comments'.

The first session 'Return to Practice Process' was regarded as the most useful by respondents with the majority of respondents finding it very useful. Two respondents commented that they were not involved in this process so found it useful for information only.

Six of the eight respondents to the session 'Further Evidence of Practice' found it very useful. It was observed that 'it was difficult to try and replicate filling in a new form without the necessary time available'. The session could have been improved by using a better scripted example.

Overall five respondents considered the 'Assessment of Clinical Performance' session very useful; however, one respondent did not find it useful but offered no further comments. It was suggested that this session could be more useful by providing more user friendly forms.

### **5. Observations on the organisation of the training**

Overall the organisation of the training was well received, although one respondent thought the information and support available before the training was poor. Respondents commented that it was a very useful and informative day, it was well organised and all sessions 'enabled the assessors to have open discussion and express views'. All respondents thought the venue was good and nine indicated that the materials provided were good; however, one respondent commented that it should not be necessary to leave the room for the written exercises.

### **6. Effectiveness of the training**

The overall feeling was that the training prepared participants for using the documentation. Two participants felt only partially prepared commenting 'I think this is just a question of getting down and doing it and see how it works in practice for a few months. My fear is that it is going to take a lot longer than previously, but this may just be due to unfamiliarity with the forms.' and suggesting that 'more user friendly documentation and a chance to put into action before an Assessment of Clinical Performance' were needed.

Suggestions for further support and information needed included:

- the finalised ACP assessment documents
- ensuring there is sufficient time and energy to complete the paperwork on the day of the assessment
- 'a forum of communication between those involved in the ACP and those in discussion with return to practice Osteopaths...'

### **7. Conclusion**

The General Osteopathic Council Review: training can be considered a success as most of the feedback in the questionnaires was recorded in the positive. Overall respondents found it a useful event and had few suggestions for improvement.