

I'M REGISTERED



General  
Osteopathic  
Council

## Promoting your status as a registered health professional

A guide for osteopaths



## Why is it important for me to raise awareness of my registration?

Patients want to be assured that you have the skills, knowledge and professional judgment to guide important decisions about their health. They need to know that they are protected from harm and have somewhere to turn if they have concerns. The fact that you are a regulated health professional gives patients confidence to choose you and trust in you.

Promoting awareness of your registration – of your professional status – increases public confidence in osteopaths and osteopathy. This guide is intended to help you make the most of your professional status, to the benefit of your patients and the public who entrust their health to your care.

## How can I make people aware I am registered?

There are a number of resources available to help you promote yourself as a registered health professional. Most of these are freely available from the GOsC, and our Communications team can advise you on using them to good effect.

### GOsC REGISTRATION MARKS

#### 'I'm registered'

A personalised GOsC Registration Mark is now available to every osteopath on the UK Register. Your Registration Mark includes the text 'I'm registered' with a tick symbol and your GOsC registration number.

The Mark offers patients, the public and others (e.g. health service commissioners; private health insurers) an assurance that they can easily check your registration status on the GOsC Register of osteopaths.

Display your Registration Mark on your stationery, marketing materials, appointment cards, in your waiting room, on your website and signage. This will help to increase general awareness that osteopathy is a regulated practice.



When using this Mark on your website, in conjunction with information about your training and practice, it is especially helpful to patients if you also use it as a hyperlink to the Search the Register page on the GOsC website ([www.osteopathy.org.uk](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk)).



### **‘We’re registered’**

Where two or more osteopaths work together within a practice, sharing a common website and practice stationery, you may find it useful to use this generic Registration Mark, designed for group osteopathic practices, which does not include individual registration numbers. This Mark includes the text ‘We’re registered’ with a tick symbol next to the words ‘General Osteopathic Council’.

When using the Mark on your website, you could display it as a hyperlink to the GOsC website to draw attention to the standards that underpin your practice.

### **Terms and conditions for use of GOsC Registration Marks**

Only osteopaths registered with the GOsC are permitted to use these Registration Marks.

The Marks are available from the GOsC via the **o** zone, with your agreement to the terms of use. You will find this information on the ‘Promoting registration’ section of the **o** zone, accessible via the GOsC public website [www.osteopathy.org.uk](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk)

If you have queries about the use of the GOsC Registration Marks, contact our Communications team on 020 7357 6655 x242 or via email [info@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:info@osteopathy.org.uk)

### **GOsC corporate logo**

The logo we use on GOsC stationery is for use by the GOsC only. It may not be used without the explicit permission of the GOsC and it is not a substitute for the Registration Marks we provide. For further information, contact our Communications team.



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## GOsC 'Safe in our hands' Certification Mark

With the introduction of these new Registration Marks, we will be withdrawing use of the 'Safe in our hands' device. You should aim to stop using this logo by the end of 2014.

## PUBLIC INFORMATION POSTERS

GOsC public information posters promoting osteopaths' status as registered health professionals and highlighting the benefits of this for patients, are available for display in your clinic, waiting rooms and other suitable public areas.

**General Osteopathic Council**

**By law, osteopaths must be registered with the General Osteopathic Council**

**I'M REGISTERED**

Registration means that:

- I am a regulated health professional
- I am trained and qualified
- I am required to keep my knowledge and skills up to date
- I am required to have professional indemnity insurance
- I welcome your feedback on the care I provide

General Osteopathic Council  
[www.osteopathy.org.uk](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk)  
 Telephone: 020 7357 6655

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**WE'RE REGISTERED**

Registration means that:

- We are regulated health professionals
- We are trained and qualified
- We are required to keep our knowledge and skills up to date
- We are required to have professional indemnity insurance
- We welcome your feedback on the care we provide

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The poster comes in two formats: for use by individual osteopaths and for group osteopathic practices. These can be downloaded free of charge from the **o** zone or ordered in A3 format (there is a small charge for post and packaging).

You can order the A3 posters online via the **o** zone, or contact our Communications team on 020 7357 6655 x242 or email [info@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:info@osteopathy.org.uk)

## DISPLAYING YOUR GOsC REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

Every osteopath receives a GOsC registration certificate on first joining the Register and then annually on renewal.

It may be helpful to display your current certificate of GOsC registration prominently in your practice. Patients tell us they welcome this clear reassurance of your professional status.





## SHOWING YOUR GOSc IDENTITY CARD

Voluntary identity cards for osteopaths are available from the GOSc on request. We encourage you to show your identity card to reassure patients you are who you say you are, for example when making home visits. We also encourage patients to ask for identification in much the same way as they would expect a police officer or council official to confirm their identity.

To obtain a GOSc identity card, contact the GOSc or tick the request box on your annual renewal of registration form. You will need to supply a passport-sized photo. Every year thereafter you will automatically receive a new card when you renew your registration, unless you choose not to.

For further information about GOSc identity cards, contact our Registration team on 020 7357 6655 x229 or email [registration@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:registration@osteopathy.org.uk)

## USING YOUR GOSc REGISTRATION NUMBER AND REGISTERED NAME

### GOSc registration number

This is the unique number you are given when you register with the GOSc. Your registration number enables patients, employers and others to confirm your credentials via the GOSc's website. This number will never change, even if you leave the Register for a time and later re-register. We would encourage you to be familiar with your GOSc registration number.

### Registered name

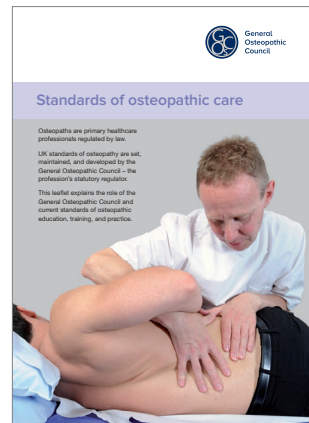
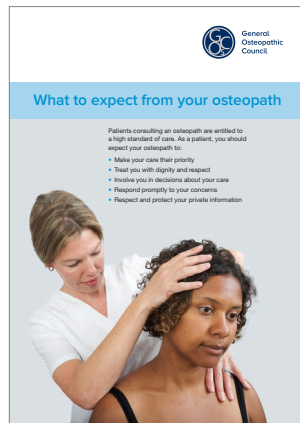
This is your full name as it appears on the online Register. If you don't use your full registered name at work, it is helpful to ensure that official documents show the name under which you are registered with the GOSc, along with your registration number. This minimises the potential for confusion, for example if a patient wishes to check your registration status with the GOSc.

If you wish to be registered under a different name, contact our Registration team in writing, giving the reason you wish to change your registered name, along with evidence of your name change (e.g. a marriage certificate or new passport).

We would also encourage you to routinely use your GOsC registration number in conjunction with your registered name, on your practice stationery, leaflets, business cards and email communications.

## PROVIDING INFORMATION TO PATIENTS AND THE PUBLIC

The GOsC produces public information leaflets, which you can share with your patients and the public, including other health professionals.



The information leaflets *What to expect from your osteopath* and *Standards of osteopathic care* assure the wider public that osteopaths are well qualified professionals who meet high standards of competence and conduct.

Patients tell us this is useful information in advance of their first visit to an osteopath and helps them confidently recommend an osteopath to family and friends.

These leaflets are free to download from the GOsC websites, or can be ordered in hard copy for a nominal charge via the **o** zone or by contacting our Communications team on 020 7357 6655 x242 or via email [info@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:info@osteopathy.org.uk)

## EXPLAINING WHAT REGISTRATION MEANS

When a patient asks what your registration means – if you are uncertain how best to explain – this suggested form of words may help you:

‘All osteopaths in the UK are required by law to be registered with the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC).

Registration means that the osteopath:

- Is a regulated health professional
- Is trained and qualified
- Is required to keep their knowledge and skills up to date
- Is required to have professional indemnity insurance
- Welcomes any feedback on the care provided.’

Osteopaths in the UK should describe themselves as statutorily registered, not state registered.

## CHECKING REGISTRATION

We encourage patients, the public and employers to check your registration online ([www.osteopathy.org.uk](http://www.osteopathy.org.uk)). Alternatively, they can contact the GOsC directly on 020 7357 6655 x242 or via email [info@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:info@osteopathy.org.uk)

In addition to the online Register, the GOsC website provides information to give patients, health professionals and the public a better understanding of osteopathic care and what they can expect when in your care.

## HELP PROTECT YOUR TITLE

Only those who qualify for GOsC registration can lawfully use the title ‘osteopath’. Anyone not registered with the GOsC who uses this title or gives the impression they are an osteopath is breaking the law.

The GOsC prosecutes individuals who pass themselves off as osteopaths when not registered. If you suspect a practitioner is using the title ‘osteopath’ unlawfully, please contact our Regulation team on 020 7357 6655 x224 or via email [regulation@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:regulation@osteopathy.org.uk)



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### FURTHER INFORMATION

For advice and further information about promoting your registration, call us on 020 7357 6655 x242, email [info@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:info@osteopathy.org.uk) or write to the Communications Department, General Osteopathic Council, Osteopathy House, 176 Tower Bridge Road, London SE1 3LU.

The resources outlined in this leaflet are available in Welsh on request. If you have any other requirements for the community you serve, please get in touch.

For any questions about your registration, contact our Registration team via email [registration@osteopathy.org.uk](mailto:registration@osteopathy.org.uk)