



General
Osteopathic
Council

Patient and Public Partnership Group

Information Guide

Welcome and introduction

Welcome to the information guide to the General Osteopathic Council's Patient and Public Partnership Group. The aim of this leaflet is to provide information to patients and the public who are interested in being involved in the development of standards of osteopathic care.

What is the General Osteopathic Council?

The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) regulates the practice of osteopathy in the UK. By law osteopaths must be registered with us in order to practise in the UK.

We work with the public and osteopathic profession to promote patient safety by registering qualified professionals and setting, maintaining and developing standards of osteopathic practice and conduct.

What is the purpose of a Patient and Public Partnership Group?

The GOsC is keen to set up a Patient and Public Partnership Group so that we can work more closely with patients to improve our services, to better protect the public, and to provide patients and the public with the information they need about osteopathic practice.

What we would like to do

We see your involvement as:

- Providing a patient and public perspective to inform the work of the GOsC.
- Assisting in the development of GOsC communication materials.

What we don't do

The purpose of the Group is not to deal with individual issues or concerns. Complaints are dealt with through the GOsC's formal procedure. For further information on our complaints procedure, contact the Regulation Department on x224.

Constitution of the Group

The GOsC Patient and Public Partnership Group will comprise members from all four UK countries. Members will need to be aged 18 or over on 7 November 2011. There is no upper age limit.

There will be no need for a formal induction to participate in the Group, as the only experience we require from you is that you are a patient and/or have an interest in osteopathic practice. If at a later date further induction is deemed necessary, we will provide training and support.

How the Patient and Public Partnership Group will work

The Group will operate mainly as a 'virtual' group via the internet, with information and views exchanged via email or post. We will circulate any necessary documents to you, with a deadline for responses. If you do not have access to the internet, we can send information to you by post for your comments, or discuss your views over the phone.

From time to time it may be helpful to invite members of the Group to meet with us face-to-face in small discussion (focus) groups. A suitable date, time, location and venue would be confirmed at this stage. Reasonable travel costs will be provided.

Without a meeting, there is little opportunity to meet other members of the Group. If you wish us to share your contact details with other Group members we can do so.

Your contact at the GOsC is the Communications team.

Remuneration

Membership of the Patient and Public Partnership Group is a voluntary position.

On the completion of a project, a £25 gift voucher will be awarded to three participants selected at random who have made a contribution.

If face-to-face meetings or focus groups are scheduled in the future, we will provide sufficient notice, necessary support and reasonable expenses.

Data protection

During the course of your participation in the Group, we may obtain information about you, such as your contact details, personal characteristics identified in an (optional) equality monitoring form and other information about yourself that you provide in your responses.

The information which we obtain from you will be used only in connection with the Group's projects.

We will store your information securely and will not give information about you to anyone outside the GOsC without your consent unless the law allows us to.

Equality and diversity

We value and promote diversity. We welcome applications from all sections of the community and all backgrounds and experience.

We will produce materials in accessible formats on request.

We will produce materials in Welsh on request.

Further information

For more details about the GOsC you can visit our website at: www.osteopathy.org.uk.

Alternatively you are welcome to call the GOsC Communications Manager on 020 7357 6655 x245, email: seldred@osteopathy.org.uk or write to:

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Communications Department
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