



OCNZ Newsletter September 2020

The Osteopathic Council recognises the unprecedented disruption that Covid-19 has caused to every one of our registrants this year. We appreciate your commitment to keeping your patients safe and healthy by remaining responsive to the Allied Health Treatment Guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health under the various Covid-19 Alert Levels.

We understand that some planned CPD activities this year have been cancelled due to Covid-19 and this has led to some concern from practitioners about their ability to reach the CPD threshold required for maintaining an APC. However, we encourage osteopaths to use your professional response to the Covid -19 situation as an opportunity to recognise your learning in relation to safe healthcare practice during a pandemic.

Examples could include:

- learning to provide telehealth services
- learning to conduct health screening and risk control procedures
- learning about infection prevention controls including the safe and appropriate use of PPE

Council will recognise this learning as CPD should you wish to include it. You will need to document how this learning fits into your overall learning needs and how it is related to the [Capabilities for Osteopathic Practice](#).

Ngā mihi

Lara Sanders
Deputy Chair

Code of Conduct

The Osteopathic Council is introducing the *Code of Conduct* to ensure it is setting appropriate standards of ethical conduct for osteopaths to protect the health and safety of health consumers. The Council is required to set standards of ethical conduct to be observed by osteopaths under section 118 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

The Code is a set of standards set by the Council in consultation with the profession, the public and other stakeholders that describes the behaviour and conduct that osteopaths are expected to uphold. The Code is a living document that will be updated with further consultation and in response to the health needs of all health consumer, including Te Tiriti considerations and effective and respectful interaction with Māori.

It provides guidance on appropriate behaviour and can be used by health consumers, osteopaths, employers and other health practitioners to evaluate the conduct of osteopaths.

Osteopaths must be able to be held accountable for their practice by health consumers, employers, the Health and Disability Commissioner, the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal and other agencies as well as the Osteopathic Council. Some conduct that falls below a standard expected of an osteopath may be managed through the remedial competence review process rather than by a disciplinary process.

You can view the Code of Conduct on our website here: https://www.osteopathiccouncil.org.nz/images/Code_of_Conduct_for_Osteopaths_September_2020.pdf

OCNZ National Conference

This year our National Conference will be held on **17 October 2020** via Zoom.

Proposed Agenda items:

- Code of Conduct
- Continued Professional Development
- Te Tiriti and Māori Responsiveness

Continuing professional development (CPD)

As you are aware the Osteopathic Council is reviewing its approach to Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") and at this year's Osteopathic Council Conference we invite you, as members of the osteopathic profession, to again be part of this discussion. This year's Conference is a chance to share with

you the proposed CPD requirements following the review and to hear your thoughts on those requirements.

Code of conduct

Nick Davis the Deputy Registrar will discuss the new Code of Conduct and some recent disciplinary cases that align with the principles and standards in the Code.

Te Tiriti and Māori Responsiveness

Hikitia Ropata, the Director Māori Responsiveness for the Nursing Council, will speak about the Nursing Council's journey to building responsiveness to Māori.

If you are interested in attending this conference please let us know at osteoadmin@osteopathiccouncil.org.nz and confirm the email you would like us to use to invite you to this conference.

Child and Adolescent Health Recertification Programme

All osteopaths to whom this programme applies, and who held a current practising certificate at 1 September 2017 are required to have completed the recertification programme requirements by 31 December 2020.

Osteopaths who do not complete this programme before 31 December 2020 may have a condition included in their scope of practice that reads:

Has not completed a profession-wide education requirement in child and adolescent health and may not treat individuals under 18 years old

Any osteopath who has not completed the programme, but does not believe the condition is justified, will be provided with an opportunity to submit on that issue before the condition is included in their scope of practice.

You can view more information on our website <https://www.osteopathiccouncil.org.nz/child-and-adolescent-health-recertification-programme>

Please contact Ara directly to enrol <http://www.ara.ac.nz/about-us/contact-us>.

You need to inform Council if you have completed the programme in your application for a practising certificate. If you have forgotten to do so email the Council noting that you have completed it.

Continued Professional Development

Under the current recertification requirements, practitioners are required to complete at least 25 hours of CPD activities per year as part of their ongoing professional development activities.

To allow greater flexibility in the way practitioners plan these activities, and in response to the disruption faced this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council would like to confirm that up to 15 hours of activities completed in excess of this 25-hour requirement may be counted towards the total number of hours in the following CPD cycle (i.e. towards the next year's requirements, but no further).

Please note, however, that the focus of these activities should be that each practitioner ensures that they take steps to: a) identify, b) address and c) record their own learning needs. Merely counting the hours of activities completed does not maintain nor develop ongoing competence.

Kaunihera Whakanao Uaiwi



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