



UNITED KINGDOM

Osteopathy

The practise of osteopathy has a long history in the UK. The first school of osteopathy was established in London in 1917 by Dr John Martin Littlejohn, a pupil of A.T. Still, who had been Dean of The Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. After many years of existing outside the main stream of health care provision, the osteopathic profession in the UK was finally accorded formal recognition by Parliament in 1993 by the Osteopaths Act. This legislation now provides the profession of osteopathy the same legal framework of statutory self-regulation as other healthcare professions such as medicine and dentistry.

The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) regulates the practise of osteopathy under the terms of the Osteopaths Act 1993. A person cannot practise unless they register with the GOsC. The General Osteopathic Council has a statutory duty to promote, develop and regulate the profession of osteopathy in the UK. It fulfils its duty to protect the interests of the public by ensuring that all osteopaths maintain high standards of safety, competence and professional conduct throughout their professional lives.

In order to be registered with the General Osteopathic Council an osteopath must hold a recognized qualification that meets the standards as set out by law in the GOsC's Standard of Practise. This Act provides for "protection of title" A person who, whether expressly or implication describes himself as an osteopath, osteopathic practitioner, osteopathic physician, osteopathist, osteotherapist, or any kind of osteopath is guilty of an offence unless he is registered as an osteopath.

The recognition of osteopathy also means that allopathic physicians can now refer patients to osteopaths for treatment with the transfer of clinical responsibility rather than simply delegating the responsibility for care, as is the case with other healthcare professionals. Under the UK law the title "Osteopath" is protected and therefore, it is a criminal offence for anyone to claim to be an osteopath expressly or by implication unless they are registered with the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC). There are currently approximately four thousand osteopaths registered in the UK.

Contact:

General Osteopathic Council

Tel: +44 (0) 207 357 6655

Fax: +44 (0) 207 357 0011

Email info@osteopathy.org.uk

Web site: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/>

Statutes/Regulations:

The Osteopaths Act 1993: "An Act to establish a body to be known as the General Osteopathic Council; to provide for the regulation of the profession of osteopathy, including making provision as to the registration of osteopaths and as to their professional education and conduct; to make provision in connection with the development and promotion of the profession; and for connected purposes." http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts1993/Ukpga_19930021_en_1.htm
Standards of Osteopathic Training and Practise http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/about_gosc/about_standards.php



Schools of Osteopathy:

The following list provides the names and addresses of the institutions accredited by the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC): <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/careers/osteocourses.php>

Organisations/Associations:

General Osteopathic Council (Regulatory Body)

176 Tower Bridge Road

London, SE1 3LU

Tel: +44 (0) 207 357 6655

Fax: +44 (0) 207 357 0011

Email: info@osteopathy.org.uk

Website: <http://www.osteopathy.org.uk/>

British Osteopathic Association

3 Park Terrace

Manor Road

Luton, Beds, LU1 3HN

Tel: +44 01582 488455

Fax: +44 01582 481533

Email: boa@osteopathy.org

Website: www.osteopathy.org