



Press release

For immediate use
27 May 2009

General Chiropractic Council (GCC) welcomes new National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines issued to the NHS

The GCC welcomes evidence-based guidance published by NICE to improve the management of low back pain in England and Wales. Every year millions of people are affected by back pain and, for some, the pain can be persistent, debilitating and distressing.

Peter Dixon, Chair of the GCC said today: *“Commissioners and providers of NHS primary care services now have a framework to provide a consistent evidence-based approach to the management of persistent low back pain. This is good news for NHS patients.*

The NICE guidelines are structured and flexible and will enable the treatment to be tailored to the needs of each patient. Spinal manipulation, exercise, acupuncture, advice and cognitive behavioural therapy are recommended, as appropriate. The intervention is the key and may be provided by chiropractors, osteopaths, acupuncturists and specially trained doctors and physiotherapists.

Chiropractors have been saying for many years that they can, and do, help people suffering from back pain – they, and their patients, see the benefits clearly. The evidence-base to support these views has been accumulating over the past twenty years.”

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

For more information call Dr Tonya Gillis on 020 7045 2174 or the NICE press office on 0845 003 7782 and (out of hours) 07775 583 813

About the guideline

1. The guidance is available at www.nice.org.uk/CG88
2. Low back pain can be soreness or stiffness in the back between the bottom of the ribcage and the top of the legs

About NICE

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health.

About the GCC

The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) is an independent UK-wide statutory health regulator set up to protect the public. It sets standards for chiropractors' competence, conduct and health and will take action against chiropractors who fail to meet them.

A range of information, including a list of chiropractors, is available on www.gcc-uk.org

Contact

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