

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the role of the new Code?**

The Code sets out the standards that chiropractors must meet if they wish to practise in the UK. By requiring chiropractors to meet the requirements in the Code, patients and the public can be confident that they will receive a high standard of both patient care and safety.

The Code can also be used by chiropractors to demonstrate their commitment to delivering high standards of professionalism and safety, and they should regularly refer to the Code to reflect on how they practise and their approach to patients and treatment.

### **Why have we produced a new Code?**

We periodically review our Code to take into account developments in chiropractic practice and also changes in the wider healthcare environment.

The current Code entered into force in 2010, so we started the review process in 2013 by carrying out a survey to identify any concerns that patients, chiropractors and other interested parties had with the 2010 Code.

The survey revealed concerns over the levels of duplication and verbosity in the CoP and SoP. It was also felt that the language needed to be clearer in terms of what chiropractors are required to do, that CoP and SoP should be updated to reflect the changing healthcare environment and should be merged into one document.

### **When does the new Code come into effect?**

The new Code comes into effect on June 30th 2016. From that date, you will have to ensure that you comply with the new Code's requirements.

### **Who is the Code for?**

The new Code is for everyone with an interest in chiropractic in the UK. In particular:-

- Patients can use it to reassure themselves that they will receive safe, high quality treatment
- Chiropractors can use it as a way of reflecting on and maintaining their professionalism
- Educationalists can use it to help students understand what it means to be a professional chiropractor

### **What areas does the Code cover?**

The Code sets out the eight professional and ethical standards that you must meet as a chiropractor. They are:-

- Put the health interest of patients first
- Act with honesty and integrity and maintain the highest standards of professional and personal conduct
- Provide a good standard of clinical care and practice
- Establish and maintain a clear professional relationship with patients

- Obtain informed consent for all aspects of patient care
- Communicate properly and effectively with your patients, colleagues and other healthcare professionals
- Maintain, develop and work within your professional knowledge and skills
- Maintain and protect patient information

### **Do I have to meet the new Code's requirements now?**

The new Code does not come into effect until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016. Until that date, you must follow the requirements of the existing CoP and SoP.

### **What happens if a complaint is made against me either immediately before or immediately after introduction of the new Code?**

If a complaint is made against you, the complaint will be assessed under the version of the Code that was in force at the time that the events in the allegation against you took place.

So, if a complaint is made against you on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 regarding something that happened on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2016, before the new Code came into effect, the requirements of the old CoP and SoP will apply.

However, should a complaint be made against you on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 regarding something that happened on July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, because the new Code will have been in effect by July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the requirements of the new Code will apply.

### **Why are you publishing the Code so early before it enters into effect?**

Our legislation requires us to publish the Code twelve months before it enters into effect. While this is a much longer period than many other health regulators had to introduce their Codes, it does give you plenty of time to ensure that you have processes and procedures in place to meet the new Code's requirements.

### **How long will I have to implement the requirements of the new Code once it enters into effect?**

You will have to be compliant with the requirements of the new Code from June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Once the new Code is in force, there is no window for you to meet its requirements – you have to be compliant from June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016.

### **How will the new Code benefit patients?**

The Code sets out what patients, their families and members of the public can expect when they see a chiropractor. It will reassure them that their protection and safety is at the centre of chiropractic practice, and they can visit a chiropractor knowing that they will receive safe and professional level of treatment.

### **Who contributed to developing the new Code?**

Developing the new Code has taken two years, and over that time we have regularly met with the chiropractic associations, Royal College and patient groups to give them the opportunity to influence development of the Code.

We also carried out a number of surveys to give the profession the opportunity to comment on our plans, and held a number of focus groups which gave chiropractors the opportunity to discuss the new Code in detail with us.