

Working Together

A joint statement explaining the roles of the General Chiropractic Council, the chiropractic professional associations and the Royal College of Chiropractors

Agreed by the:

General Chiropractic Council
British Chiropractic Association
McTimoney Chiropractic Association
Scottish Chiropractic Association
United Chiropractic Association
The Royal College of Chiropractors

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The General Chiropractic Council

1. The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) is a UK-wide statutory body, independent of government, set up by Parliament to act in the public interest by regulating chiropractors. The GCC does this by:
 - a) setting the standards of chiropractic education, conduct and practice in the UK
 - b) maintaining a statutory register of appropriately qualified chiropractors
2. The GCC must, by law, investigate all complaints about fitness to practise of a chiropractor. In proven cases, the GCC has the power to:
 - a) admonish the chiropractor
 - b) impose a 'conditions of practice order'
 - c) suspend registration
 - d) remove registration.
3. It is a legal requirement for chiropractors in the UK to be registered with the GCC and to abide by the [The Code : Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for chiropractors](#). It is a criminal offence for anyone who is not GCC registered to describe themselves as a chiropractor or to imply they are a chiropractor. The GCC will ensure that action will be taken against any person appearing to contravene the law.
4. The GCC is accountable to Parliament and subject to scrutiny by the Professional Standards Authority. The GCC's audited accounts, which are available on www.gcc-uk.org, have to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

The professional associations

5. There are currently four professional associations whose role is to provide personal and professional support to their members:
 - a) The British Chiropractic Association
 - b) The McTimoney Chiropractic Association
 - c) The Scottish Chiropractic Association
 - d) The United Chiropractic Association.
6. This support may include:
 - a) a range of professional and personal services including insurance, conferences, member website, business support services, professional journals and practice promotion
 - b) ongoing lobbying of the GCC, government and other agencies
 - c) promotion of their association and their members
 - d) encouraging and responding to media enquiries and public issues.

The Royal College of Chiropractors

7. The Royal College is a postgraduate membership organisation that provides a range of services to support the development of professional excellence in the interests of chiropractors and patients including:
 - a) a training and support network for new graduates;
 - b) a UK-wide programme of Continuing Professional Development events;
 - c) assessment and recognition of quality through the award of practice quality marks;
 - d) administration of an online, profession-wide patient safety incident reporting and learning scheme www.cpirfs.org;
 - e) clinical faculty membership for practitioners with experience and training in specific areas of chiropractic practice;
 - f) an international peer-reviewed journal
 - g) active support for chiropractic research.
 - h) Development and publication of Quality Standards and audit tools
 - i) Collection and analysis of patient outcome and experiential data
8. **Membership of the professional associations and the**

Royal College of Chiropractors is voluntary, and they are accountable to their members.

What do the chiropractic professional associations and the Royal College of Chiropractors have in common with the GCC?

9. Acting in the public interest through a commitment to the GCC's standards of conduct and competence for chiropractors, and thereby upholding the reputation of the chiropractic profession.
10. Effective communication with the profession, members of the public and key decision makers.

Complaints: who does what?

The General Chiropractic Council

11. The GCC can deal with complaints about:
 - a) the treatment, care or advice given by a chiropractor;
 - b) the professional or personal behaviour of a chiropractor
 - c) the physical and mental health of a chiropractor.

What is the role of the professional associations in complaints?

12. All chiropractors must have a practice complaints procedure and deal with complaints promptly and fairly. Where appropriate, the professional associations will seek to help their members resolve complaints locally and will mediate between the chiropractor and complainant where questions about compensation and refunds of fees arise.
13. If a complainant is not satisfied with how the chiropractor has dealt with their complaint, the chiropractor must tell the complainant that they have a right to complain to the GCC and give them the GCC's contact details.
14. Where complaints and concerns are made to and considered by the GCC, the professional associations provide personal support and advice to their members and will work with the indemnity insurer to ensure that appropriate legal advice is provided.

Communications

Promotion, raising awareness and understanding: who does what?

The GCC

15. The GCC's role does not promote the chiropractic profession.

The professional associations

16. The professional associations arrange campaigns focusing on the benefit of chiropractic care their members can provide to the general public. This may take the form of targeted campaigns for specific groups. The aim is to:
- a) raise awareness of the benefits of chiropractic
 - b) encourage increased patient referrals to their members' clinics.

The Royal College of Chiropractors

17. The Royal College of Chiropractors seeks to promote the art, science, practice and awareness of chiropractic through patient-centred initiatives aimed at developing, and demonstrating, the professional excellence of chiropractors.
18. It provides a range of quality initiatives, including Quality Standards, which enable chiropractors, other healthcare professionals and patients recognize high quality care.

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