



ADVICE NOTE

‘OPEN PLAN’ STYLE OF PRACTICE

The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) recently conducted a profession-wide survey of opinion on a wide variety of matters, which achieved a 42% response rate. Of those who responded, approximately 8% use a treatment area with more than one patient being present at the same time – that is, an ‘open plan’ style of chiropractic practice. While this is a relatively small percentage of practice, it did generate considerable comment from other respondents who requested that the GCC express a view on this matter.

The GCC has identified a range of perceived arguments for and against this style of practice. A central issue that emerged was that ‘open plan’ practitioners might be particularly vulnerable to complaints that they had

- a) failed to respect patients’ privacy and dignity

and/or

- b) failed to observe patient confidentiality

This Advice Note has been issued, therefore, to ensure that chiropractors who have ‘open plan’ treatment areas are alert to these potential problems.

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