

2025
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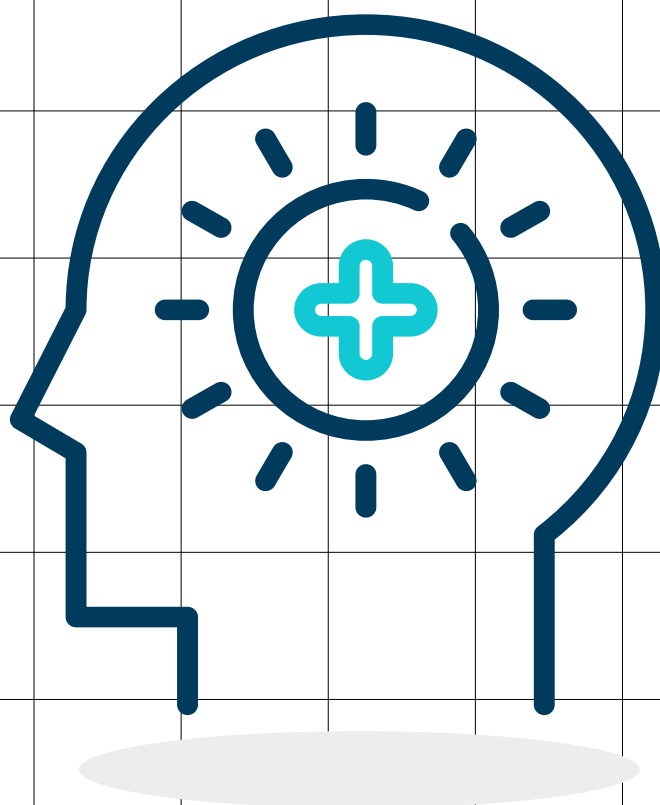


GCC Registrant Toolkit

Enhancing Patient Care Through Competency

Professionalism in chiropractic

Toolkit



Enhancing patient care through competency

Demonstrating the highest levels of competency as a healthcare professional is critical to achieving the trust and confidence of patients. For chiropractors, competency means showing the appropriate knowledge and skills to treat patients safely and effectively.

Other essential elements of competency include behaving professionally and respectfully and making the proper judgement to support the highest standards of care. For example, this could involve recognising that another healthcare professional has the more appropriate expertise to treat a patient's condition and stepping aside.

Competency is not static. To continue to deliver high standards of care and provide the best available advice to patients, registrants must keep up to date with the latest thinking and treatment methods. This means keeping abreast of the latest evidence relating to professional practice and fully participating in Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Failing to demonstrate competence has the potential to impact a patient's health and well-being, as well as undermine confidence in the chiropractic profession.

Competency in the Code of Professional Practice



I: You must maintain, develop and work within your professional knowledge and skills.

Chiropractic practice is a lifelong journey that demands continuous growth and the upkeep of skills and knowledge to remain current with advancements in the profession. Chiropractors are required to work within their own individual scope of practice. They are expected to regularly monitor the need to adapt and update their practice, taking responsibility for remaining up to date, and for further developing and improving their professional performance.

Other Standards in the Code of Professional Practice that reinforce and link to the above:

I1 engage in reflective practice, seeking feedback and analysing information about your practice and the care that you provide, in the interests of supporting continuous improvement.

I2 regularly consider how to adapt or improve your practice considering new developments, technologies and evidence from research.

I3 routinely seek and critically appraise emerging evidence. You must integrate findings of the best quality of evidence that is available at the time into your practice, to enhance the care of patients.

I4 maintain and develop your competence and performance, taking part in relevant and regular learning and professional development activities. You must be competent in all aspects of your professional work, including in any formal leadership, management, research or teaching role.

I5 recognise and work within the limits of your own knowledge, skills and competence. You must be clear with the patient about your limits.

I6 recognise the roles and expertise of other chiropractors and healthcare professionals. You must refer to them, or seek their expertise, when needed.

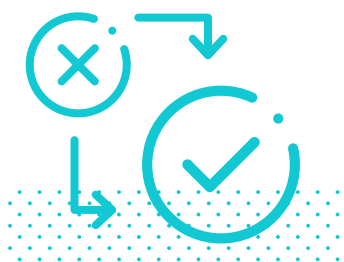
I7 not allow another person you employ, manage or lead to take on responsibility for the clinical assessment or care of a patient where it is beyond their level of knowledge, skills, or experience.

C4 take responsibility, as an autonomous healthcare professional, for keeping up to date with, and following relevant legislation, regulations, codes of practice and GCC guidance.

H2 delegate tasks or duties only if safe and appropriate to do so. You must ensure that the person you delegate to is qualified, competent, and supervised and supported as necessary

Professionalism through competency

TOP TIPS:



Learn from mistakes

The responsibility of a trusted healthcare professional extends to identifying and learning from any mistakes or incidents that could impact the safe treatment of a patient. Reviewing patient safety and Fitness to Practise reports can provide valuable learning opportunities for clinicians to enhance patient care and prevent a similar situation in the future.



Engage with colleagues

Discuss cases with colleagues to understand how they have treated patients with similar conditions and learn recommended approaches. Talk through potential scenarios and the steps required to mitigate any potential risks. These are essential conversations that support professional development as chiropractors.



Invest time and effort into Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

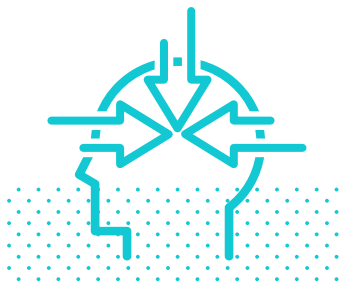
Continual development of skills and knowledge is essential for chiropractors at every stage of their career. Staying up to date with the latest research and approaches helps ensure patients receive safe, effective, and high-quality care. Critically appraising evidence and applying the best available findings in practice means care is based on sound, current knowledge and supports better outcomes for patients. CPD should also extend beyond immediate clinical issues, helping chiropractors understand the wider aspects of patient care.

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Acknowledge limitations and recognise gaps in knowledge

Chiropractors must use professional judgement to recognise and work within the limits of their knowledge, skills and competence to ensure patient safety. It is essential to understand the strengths of other healthcare professionals who may have the most appropriate skills and expertise to treat a patient and be prepared to ask for help and support when necessary. Communicate and collaborate effectively, and avoid asking colleagues or staff to take on responsibilities beyond their skills or experience.



Engage in reflective practice

Regularly reflect on your own work. Seek feedback from patients, peers, or supervisors, and use it to identify strengths and areas for improvement. Reflection is a practical way to ensure you are always moving forward in your professional development.



Demonstrate the right attitude

Confidence, respect, and professionalism in your approach to patients helps to build trust and demonstrate competence. A positive, patient-centred attitude can improve the patient experience and their confidence in your care.



“In my experience professionalism is shown by taking the necessary steps of referral to ultimately get a patient’s diagnosis and having the ability to justify and communicate at an appropriate level with other healthcare professionals. I could identify a number of cases where sticking to professional conduct and keeping away from familiarity has made a huge difference to the outcomes of the provision of care.”

Chiropractor

Simple steps to demonstrating competency



1. Skills and knowledge

- Invest time in Continuing Professional Development
- Keep up to date with the latest research and innovations
- Adapt practice in light of new evidence, developments and technologies

2. Attitude and behaviour

- Be respectful at all times
- Act with honesty and integrity
- Take responsibility for staying current with guidance and regulation

4. Recognise limitations

- Ensure patients get the most appropriate care by referring them to another healthcare professional, if necessary
- Be prepared to ask for help and support
- Be clear with patients about your own limits
- Do not delegate responsibilities beyond another person's competence

3. Learning from others

- Understand the skills and expertise of other healthcare professionals
- Learn from the experiences of others
- Seek feedback to support reflective practice
- Collaborate and communicate clearly with colleagues

How would you rate this document?



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General Chiropractic Council
Park House
186 Kennington Park Road
London
SE11 4BT

Telephone: +44 020 7713 5155
Website: www.gcc-uk.org
Twitter: @GenChiroCouncil
W3W: gains.fairly.rang



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