



## **PRINCIPLES ON STUDENTS ACTING AS MODELS FOR OTHER STUDENTS OF THE SAME OR DIFFERENT SEXES**

### **Introduction**

Chiropractic education providers have sought the advice of the GCC on whether students can choose the sex of patients whom they treat and whether they can refuse to act as proxy-patients for students of the other sex when in a learning environment. The GCC has set out the following principles for chiropractic education providers, students, registrants and members of the public.

### **Treating patients of the same or different sexes**

- 1 All education staff, students and registrants are expected to be aware of cultural and religious differences and promote equality and diversity.
- 2 In order to meet the requirements of the Code of Practice and Standard of Proficiency and also registration requirements, students must, at the point of graduation, be competent to treat patients of both sexes.

### **Students acting as proxy patients in a learning situation**

- 3 Students can refuse to undress and act as proxy patients for other students.
- 4 Where students are unwilling to undress or act as proxy patients to facilitate the learning of other students, education institutions must put in place appropriate processes to manage such a request. It is recognised that this may be an unfamiliar situation for staff and may also have resource implications particularly if a number of students choose to do this. However education providers need to abide by the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and should also recognise the benefits such a situation brings in terms of reflecting the diversity of the population in the learning environment and increasing the diversity of those who are becoming chiropractors.
- 5 It is recommended that, in the information sent out to prospective students, chiropractic education institutions explain clearly that typical classroom activities include practical sessions with peers, which might require students to undress down to their underwear.

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