

Paying the reduced fee if you are not practising in the UK

The GCC's rules make provision for those not in practice to pay a reduced fee, providing they can declare at the time of applying that they do not intend to practise at all during the registration year.

If you pay the reduced fee we will annotate your register entry to show that you are non-practising to make it clear to patients and the public you are not working as a chiropractor.

The rules do not define what 'practising' means and so to ensure consistency and transparency we have drawn up the statement below setting out when an application to pay the reduced fee is likely to be successful. The purpose of the statement is for administrative use and is not to define the scope of practice of chiropractic as we appreciate that chiropractors work in diverse and varied ways. While the majority of applications will be straightforward there will be some circumstances that mean we ask for further information, evidence or both. However, in these instances each will be reviewed and considered on a case by case basis.

For the purpose of determining the registration fee we do not consider engaging in the practice of chiropractic in the UK to be solely restricted to the provision of direct hands-on clinical care.

Those involved in clinical contact with patients, directly or indirectly, or working in any capacity that seeks to develop the chiropractic profession, are considered as engaging in the practice of chiropractic and an application to pay the reduced fee is unlikely to be successful.

Direct clinical contact includes those practising as a health practitioner under a title other than chiropractor, but who use the skills learnt as part of a chiropractic programme.

Indirect clinical contact includes acting in an advisory capacity, or using chiropractic education and skills in a way that influences the care of chiropractic patients.

Chiropractors working in research, academia or in such a way as to influence the direction of the profession as a whole, and therefore develop the chiropractic profession, are also considered as practising as chiropractors.

Who can apply for the reduced fee?

The following list gives some of the circumstances where we are likely to accept an application for the reduced fee. This list is not exhaustive.

- Ill health
- Maternity/ paternity/ child care
- Solely practising overseas
- Studying
- Travelling
- Sabbatical

What you can't do if you are pay the reduced fee for non-practising

If you are working or involved in patient management, education, researching, or in a leadership or advisory role you are equally regarded as a 'chiropractor' as someone actively treating patients. While your role may not be clinical or even directly 'healthcare', it does require the use of knowledge of the role of a 'chiropractor' and we therefore consider you as practising.

Alternatives to non-practising registration

If you are not actively using the title of chiropractor you do not need to remain registered, but can leave the register and re-join in the future if you wish. There is no requirement to pass the Test of Competence if you wish to re-join. Only chiropractors working under the title need be registered and where they are they should be paying the full £800 fee or £750 for initial registration.

For example, a chiropractor who has emigrated overseas does not need to remain registered, whether or not they intend to return to the UK to practise in the future.

Any questions regarding this note can be made to the registrations team by email (registrations@gcc-uk.org) or telephone on 020 7713 5155.