



**DRAFT POLICY ON WHEN REGISTRATION AND A PRACTISING CERTIFICATE ARE
REQUIRED**

Refer Part 2 of the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

DRAFT

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance in relation to:

- when Council expects an individual is required to be registered with the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand (OCNZ) and hold a current practising certificate
- defining the practice of osteopathy
- determining whether an individual is practising as an osteopath.

The OCNZ's gazetted *General Scopes* are included in this policy. They are key documents in determining whether a particular activity/role constitutes 'practising'.

Background: legal requirements under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act)

The OCNZ is responsible for the registration and regulation of Osteopaths in New Zealand. In order to practise as an Osteopath in New Zealand it is necessary to:

- be registered by the OCNZ; and
- hold a current practising certificate.

The HPCA Act requires that:

Section 7(1) *A person may only use names, words, titles, initials, abbreviations, or descriptions stating or implying that the person is a health practitioner of a particular kind if the person is registered, and is qualified to be registered, as a health practitioner of that kind.*

Section 7(2) *No person may claim to be practising a profession as a health practitioner of a particular kind or state or do anything that is calculated to suggest that the person practises or is willing to practise a profession as a health practitioner of that kind unless the person -*

- (a) is a health practitioner of that kind; and*
- (b) holds a current practising certificate as a health practitioner of that kind*

It is an offence punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding \$10,000 to contravene section 7 of the HPCA Act.

Unregistered individuals

The OCNZ will consider any reports of unregistered individuals using any names, words, titles, initials, abbreviations, or descriptions that state or imply that the individual is an osteopath or is practising or willing to practise as an osteopath. Subject to the particular facts of the case, the OCNZ may refer any concerns in relation to unregistered individuals to the Ministry of Health for investigation and possible prosecution.

Registered practitioners

A registered osteopath practising the profession of osteopathy without a current practising certificate is grounds for disciplinary action.

The OCNZ will consider any registered osteopath suspected of practising the profession without a current practising certificate very seriously. Subject to the particular facts of the case, the Council may refer such practitioners to a Professional Conduct Committee for investigation.

Policy:

Practice of Osteopathy

The Council considers that the practice of osteopathy may extend beyond the provision of direct clinical care. Osteopathic practice extends to roles where an osteopath uses their osteopathic skills and knowledge in non-clinical roles such as in management, administration, education, and research, and in advisory, regulatory and/or policy development roles that impact on the safe and effective delivery of osteopathic services to health consumers.

Determining if registration and a practising certificate are required

The OCNZ's policy is that an individual must be registered and hold a current practising certificate if any of the following criteria apply:

1. if the individual's position title is, or includes the term, 'osteopath';
2. if the individual uses (or intends to use) names, words, titles, initials, abbreviations, or descriptions that state or imply that they are an osteopath;
3. if the individual is otherwise perceived by others to be an osteopath, or practising osteopathy, even if the position title is not 'osteopath';
4. if the individual is advertising, holding out to the public, or representing in any manner that they are authorised to practise as an osteopath in New Zealand;

For the avoidance of any doubt:

5. a registered osteopath is required to hold a current practising certificate:
 - a. if providing osteopathic clinical supervision and/or clinical oversight to another osteopath;
 - b. if providing clinical management for another osteopath, where they have a direct impact on the provision and quality of care.
 - c. if providing education and/or training in osteopathy and osteopathic practice
 - i. Note that this expectation does not apply to aligned subjects such as general health science or other specialist health topics.

The OCNZ refers all osteopaths and applicants for registration to the *General Scope of Practice* if in any doubt when determining whether registration and a current practising certificate are required.

Scopes of Practice: Osteopath

The OCNZ has gazetted *Seven Scopes of Practice* they are:

- [General Scope](#)
- [Western Medical Acupuncture](#) and Related Needling techniques
- [Gerontology](#)
- [Pain Management](#)
- [Child and Adolescent Health](#)
- [Special Purpose](#)
- [Trainee Osteopath](#)

Scope of Practice – Osteopath

Pursuant to section 12 of the Act, the Council has prescribed the following qualifications for registration in the Scope of Practice – Osteopath:

New Zealand Graduates

All applicants must hold a qualification:

1. Accredited by the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand, being:
 - a. a Master of Osteopathy; or
 - b. a Bachelor of Musculoskeletal Health and Postgraduate Diploma in Osteopathy; and
2. Awarded by an institution accredited by the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand

Overseas Graduates

- (1) be registered under the Competent Authority Pathway endorsed by the Council, which means that an applicant is registered with the General Osteopathic Council of the United Kingdom and holds a qualification listed on the GOsC website; or
- (2) passes the overseas assessment process endorsed by Council.

Osteopaths are primary healthcare practitioners. Central to the competent practice of osteopathy is an understanding of the role of the primary care team and referral routes within the primary care team and to hospital-based services.

Osteopathy is a person-centred form of manual medicine informed by osteopathic principles. Osteopathic medicine is not confined to historical osteopathic knowledge; rather osteopathic philosophies and concepts inform the interpretation and application of interdisciplinary knowledge and the basic medical sciences. Osteopathic medicine is an evolving field of knowledge and incorporates new concepts as our understanding of health and disease progresses.

Osteopaths treat people and conceptualise health and disease within a broad holistic bio-psycho-social and environmental context. Osteopaths have a particular interest in conditions of the neuro-musculoskeletal system and the management of pain. Osteopaths seek to prevent disease and promote health by empowering patients through sharing knowledge on lifestyle choices that improve health outcomes.

Osteopathic practice may be situated within a continuum of healthcare and wellness, with osteopaths applying evidence-based approaches to the management of named pathologies and conditions through to promoting wellbeing through supportive treatment.

The competent practice of osteopathy clearly requires broad diagnostic competencies and a differential diagnosis is required to determine if a structural diagnosis and the use of osteopathic manual treatment (OMT) is appropriate. Although osteopathic practice is often defined by OMT, the practice of osteopathy is not limited to a structural diagnosis and OMT. Whilst there may well be a somatic component to disease, OMT may not be a suitable or principal modality in every presentation.

Osteopaths work across the lifespan and may treat individuals from birth to old age or deliver services in group settings. Professional knowledge may be applied in a range of settings not limited to clinical practice, such as health promotion, education and research, health policy and healthcare management.

References

1. Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003

Date policy approved: TBA

Policy review due: TBA

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