

Dear Colleague

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

Summary

1. This letter provides an update to Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) HDL (2005) 37 to primarily advise NHS Boards, Special Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships about the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care's accreditation scheme for voluntary registers.

Background

2. Scottish Government policy remains unchanged since the issue of HDL (2005) 37. The Scottish Government recognises that complementary and alternative medicines (CAM) may offer some relief to some people living with a wide variety of long term health conditions. It is for individual NHS Boards to decide what CAM therapies they make available based on the needs of their resident populations. The Scottish Government expects NHS Boards to ensure that people receive the appropriate care that meets their needs and that this care is person-centred, safe and effective.

3. Osteopathic and chiropractic practitioners are statutorily regulated by the General Osteopathic and General Chiropractic Councils respectively.

4. The Scottish Government also recognises that many other CAMs have voluntary registers, some of which are accredited by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care's accreditation scheme for voluntary registers. This can have a number of benefits for practitioners, patients, contracting organisations and employers; providing reassurance that professionals are subject to a level of appropriate scrutiny. More information about accredited registers is available on the Professional Standards Authority website at <http://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/accredited-registers/about-accredited-registers/faqs>.

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Addresses

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5. Therefore the NHS are requested to ensure that, where an appropriate register is available, contracted practitioners belong to an accredited voluntary register. This will help support the delivery of safe care.

Action

6. Chief Executives and Chief Officers of Health and Social Care Partnerships are asked to note this update to HDL (2005) 37. http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/sehd/mels/HDL2005_37.pdf.

Yours sincerely

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