



Snapshot

Annual review of performance 2016/17

Regulator reviewed: **General Chiropractic Council**

Key facts & figures:

- Regulates the practice of **chiropractors** in the **United Kingdom**
- **3,195** professionals on register and recognises and assures the quality of **five degree programmes** at **three educational institutions**
- **£750** fee for initial registration; the fee for retention is **£800**. (The GCC offers a reduced fee of **£100** for those not intending to practise.)



Standards of good regulation

Core functions

Annual performance review 2016/17

Met

(number of Standards)

Guidance & Standards

4/4

Education & Training

4/4

Registration

6/6

Fitness to Practise

9/10

Find out more about our performance reviews at:
www.professionalstandards.org.uk/performancereviews

Focus on: **Activities and actions demonstrating how the GCC is meeting the Standards**

The GCC has met 23 out of 24 of our Standards of Good Regulation, maintaining the improvement in its performance that we noted in last year's review.

GUIDANCE AND STANDARDS: ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE HELPS REGISTRANTS APPLY THE REGULATOR'S STANDARDS

The GCC published its new *Code – Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for chiropractors* in June 2016. It also published additional guidance to help chiropractors understand their obligations around: advertising, candour, confidentiality, consent, maintaining sexual boundaries and the use of social media.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: STANDARDS ARE LINKED TO STANDARDS FOR REGISTRANTS, PRIORITISING PATIENT/SERVICE USER SAFETY/CARE

To ensure that its education standards relate directly to the newly-published Code, the GCC has continued with its project to review them and make sure that the standards reflect current and future healthcare training provision. The GCC shared the draft standards with stakeholders in April 2016, followed by a public consultation in May. Workshops were held in September and November and then the GCC met with Chiropractic education providers in January 2017 to get more feedback, before finalising the standards for its Education Committee to approve. The new standards should become effective from September 2017.

REGISTRATION: ONLY THOSE WHO MEET THE REGULATOR'S REQUIREMENTS ARE REGISTERED

Last year we carried out a targeted review of this Standard. This assured us that the GCC was correctly following its registration processes. The GCC has introduced checks to identify whether applicants for registration have been presenting themselves as chiropractors/offering chiropractic services during periods while they were not registered or while they were not registered as practising. We looked at the non-practising registration process and are satisfied that the GCC provides clear guidance for registrants on non-practising registration and has put appropriate checks in place. The GCC is also currently working with its IT contractors to enable registrants to upload details and evidence of their indemnity arrangements to its website.

FITNESS TO PRACTISE: CASES ARE PRIORITISED/DEALT WITH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

We carried out a targeted review to look at an increase in the time the GCC is taking to make final Investigating Committee decisions. The GCC explained that a number of factors had contributed to the increase, including:

- Changes to the investigation process
- Increase in advertising complaints
- Dealing with more complex cases.

The GCC explained the actions it has taken to improve its timeliness. Additionally, it is outsourcing Professional Conduct Committee referrals to a legal firm; and extending Investigating Committee panel sessions to two days rather than one. We concluded that the Standard is met – the GCC has addressed/ started to address all the factors which contributed to delays in timeliness. We will monitor this again in our next review.

FITNESS TO PRACTISE: ALL PARTIES ARE KEPT UPDATED ON PROGRESS

Concerns were identified in our 2014 audit regarding keeping parties updated and responding to correspondence received. The GCC did not meet this Standard last year nor in the previous year. We do recognise that the GCC has tried to improve its performance in this area, and has started to make changes but has had limited time since our last performance review for these changes to result in sufficient improvement. Therefore the GCC has not met this Standard.

The full report is available from our website. It covers the GCC's performance from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.