



Individual Route to Registration [Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning]

Clinical Portfolio **Guidelines for writing up your cases**

The purposes of this piece of work

- to describe to the case reviewer your thought processes throughout every stage of your interaction with a range of patients
- to show the case reviewer your range of skills and depth of understanding
- to demonstrate that you meet the National Occupational Standards in Homeopathy and work within the Society's Core Criteria for Homeopathic Practice and the Code of Ethics and Practice
- to demonstrate that you have fulfilled the learning outcomes described in the Society of Homeopaths' Clinical Guidelines

What is required

A range of cases

You are asked to present two written cases.

The cases do not have to demonstrate outstanding or complete cures, but should show an ability to reflect on the outcomes and a willingness to deal with issues that arise. Taken as a whole the cases may show your development as a homeopath over time.

The cases should provide evidence of your competence to treat a range of ages, both genders, and different types of pathology. Each case should have a minimum of two follow-ups.

Consent and confidentiality

Please make sure that there is no identifying information within the cases including names, addresses, and places of work of any person referred to in the case material. This is to protect the identity of the patient in the unlikely event of notes being stolen, or lost in the post. The patients should give you written consent to the use of their case notes for these purposes. The written consent should be sent separately from the cases.

It is helpful if you include dates of consultations, which should be from the last two years.

Evidence of Reflection

An ability to reflect on your work is an important aspect of being an effective homeopath. (Core Criterion 2.3). In order to fulfil the Individual Route requirements you will need to demonstrate your capacity for reflection in the following ways:

- a) for each of the cases please explain why you chose to present the case and what it particularly demonstrates in terms of your skills, knowledge and understanding, or your development as a homeopath.
- b) within each of the cases please reflect on the effectiveness of your interventions as part of your analysis of follow-ups.

Evidence of Case taking skills

The initial case taking and the subsequent case taking at follow-up appointments need to be recorded in detail and include the patients' own words as much as possible. Please also give a description of non-verbal communication and the patient/practitioner dynamic.

Evidence of Case evaluation skills

Please describe and explain your thought processes in evaluating the case and relate this to your understanding of homeopathic principles. Include selection of rubrics and repertorisation details where relevant. These can include computer print-outs if you have used a computer program. Also evaluate and reflect on progress that is made at subsequent appointments

Evidence of prescribing skills

Please show your reflection on the information available and explain your approaches to selecting an appropriate remedy, potency and dosage, relating this to your understanding of homeopathic principles.

Supervision

Supervision is essential for student homeopaths and strongly recommended for qualified homeopaths. If you have had supervision in relation to any of these cases please include a description of what you gained from this, and in particular how this assisted your reflection and understanding of the case, and in what ways it affected your subsequent interactions and decisions.

Evidence of medical understanding

In one of your cases please include the following:

Pick out the physical symptoms with which the patient has presented or presents with during treatment and name the diagnosis which the patient has been given e.g asthma; IBS, rheumatoid arthritis etc.

Show your knowledge and understanding of the specific disease process by:-

- 1) describing the common symptoms of the specific disease and picking out any symptoms which you would consider to be characteristic in this case. You will be showing here that you understand why a particular diagnosis has been made. **
- 2) describing what is happening on a systems and cellular level. Use diagrams if they will be a useful tool. In your description include a short section on how the system / cells operate in a healthy state.
- 3) describing the course the disease is likely to take if left untreated.
- 4) describing other similar disease processes which may have been considered when the diagnosis was being made. Include your knowledge of any tests which may have been carried out or which you consider could have been carried out and what the practitioner was hoping to learn from the results.
- 5) listing any allopathic medication which the patient may be taking and showing that you can evaluate whether any of the symptoms being experienced may be side effects from this medication.
- 6) giving details of all references you used in any part of this section.

** If a diagnosis has NOT been made, show that you can use the information to give an informed opinion – demonstrating clearly where you would refer the patient to another practitioner for tests / his or her skilled opinion.

NOTE: Please use simple language throughout in your descriptions (when you need to use technical terms ensure you also use simple language to show you understand their meaning).