

## **Registration with The Society of Homeopaths**

The Society of Homeopaths welcomes a broad spectrum of members who may adopt a variety of recognised approaches to prescribing. In the homeopathic approach to health and disease, each case is seen as unique and every prescription is individualised. The choice of prescribing method is always determined by the needs of the individual patient, as enshrined in the UK-agreed National Occupational Standards (revised 2009).

*"I think it's perfect...this sort of process eases you in and provides the support you need...a really positive experience"* GS, registration applicant

*"I understood the process to be a lot more rigid than it actually is and feel a lot happier now it's been explained to me"* PB, registration applicant

*"I learnt CPD is a broad term covering many activities that will improve my practice"* JW, registration applicant

In these uncertain times of challenge and change within the homeopathy profession, find a safe haven with the Society of Homeopaths. Registration is far simpler than you think and your name on the Society register really does give you a voice.

The Society is both a vibrant membership organisation, run by its members for its members, and a professional registering organisation, committed to offering the best possible service to patients. The Society welcomes a wide range of homeopaths, who may adopt a variety of approaches to prescribing.

By requesting further information about registration with the Society of Homeopaths, you are now one step nearer to becoming a member of the largest organisation registering homeopaths in Europe!

The information in this booklet outlines the registration process. If you have any questions at all, please do call Liz Wooltiff on 01604 817890.

At the Society, we are always available to talk to you. Our office is open from 08.00 – 16.30 hrs Monday to Friday or you can email us on: [info@homeopathy-soh.org](mailto:info@homeopathy-soh.org)

### **What are the benefits of joining the Society?**

As a Registered Member, you will have access to the Society's regular activities, resources and membership benefits including:

- membership of the largest and most influential body of professional homeopaths with over 1400 members on the Society's register
- a pro-active Communications Team ensuring a high profile, national PR presence
- support in practice – through the registration programme
- Regional Continuing Professional Development workshops and meetings
- local meetings for members to discuss topical issues
- inclusion in the Society's register
- the support and advice of the Professional Conduct Department
- access to the Society's 'FirstClass Mail' intranet system, where you can keep in touch with other homeopaths, read the latest news and discuss any aspect of your profession, including sharing difficult cases
- comprehensive claims insurance, with up to £6 million professional indemnity and public liability cover
- free 24-hour confidential legal and counselling helplines
- discounted rates for Society Conferences and Seminars
- Tradco – the Society shop offering a variety of affordable merchandise and practice support materials
- quarterly members' Newsletter and professional Journal 'The Homeopath'
- a central office staffed to respond to enquiries from membership, press and public alike

A full list of benefits can be found in the *Member Benefits* section of the website and the *Credibility Guaranteed* leaflet.

## **Joining a professional organisation**

You may have graduated recently or may soon be qualifying from your course in homeopathy and be wondering which professional body to register with. Alternatively, you may have been in practice for some time and now decided that the time is right for you to seek registration with the Society.

### **A register is for patients**

Look at it from a patient's point of view:

- You are interested in trying homeopathy but don't know where to start
- You know little or nothing about homeopathy and you don't know what is involved in training and qualifying as a homeopath
- You have heard and read a range of conflicting views regarding homeopathic treatment on TV, in newspapers, from your doctor or from friends
- You are stepping into something that is unfamiliar and uncertain
- It may involve a direct, personal financial commitment – something you don't encounter with the NHS
- It will involve talking to a complete stranger about your health and possibly about more personal aspects of your life
- You're already feeling quite vulnerable, anxious or concerned about your symptoms

*"Patients are entitled to rely upon and trust their healthcare practitioners. Registered and student clinical members are expected to maintain high standards of care, competence and conduct."*

*The Society of Homeopaths' Code of Ethics & Practice, Introduction*

### **A register is what patients want**

It is sound business practice to tailor your services to the patient. Above all, when it comes to dealing with their health, patients need to feel safe. They need to know that they are working with someone who is

- Competent
- Confident
- Effective
- Responsible
- Ethical
- Accountable

Working with the patient's perspective is at the heart of homeopathic practice. Hahnemann chose to put the patient first in paragraph 1 of the Organon:

*"The homeopath's highest and only calling is to make sick people healthy, to heal, as it is termed."*

The process of registration involves an agreement or contract between you, the practitioner and the registering body to deliver a quality of service to patients.

What is truly in the interests of the patient will automatically be in the interests of the practitioner. Our registration processes are designed to support new practitioners to support themselves in practice so that, in turn, they can support their patients effectively and responsibly.

### **Qualification and Registration – the difference**

Qualification occurs at the end of your college education and forms the foundation for clinical practice. Through a system of assessment you have successfully demonstrated your clinical competence and have gained sufficient knowledge, skill and experience to practise safely and independently. Your qualification is an award that you hold for the rest of your life and forms the basis for registration, whereas you may not necessarily maintain your status as a registered practitioner throughout your professional life.

Registration can sometimes be misunderstood to mean a further process of assessment that the newly qualified practitioner needs to undergo in order to become a fully independent and competent homeopath. This is not the case. The purpose of registration is to provide a framework within which practitioners can commit themselves to a life-long journey of best clinical practice and optimum patient care and express their affiliation to the homeopathic profession, as represented by the Society of Homeopaths. It involves an agreement between the homeopath and the registering body to deliver a certain level of quality and service to patients.

Your registration remains valid while

- you maintain your membership fees (including insurance)
- you continue to work within the terms of the registration agreement

## **Eligibility for registration with the Society**

We welcome homeopaths who have successfully completed

- a professional training course, which was recognised by the Society at the point when they qualified, or
- the Society's Individual Route.

A qualification from a Society recognised course provides a solid foundation for practice. It is intended to ensure that those who have achieved this award are sufficiently competent for independent practice and equipped to continue to develop their own knowledge, skills and understanding. If you qualified from a Society recognised course before 2004, your application process will include an extra meeting after attending your introductory workshop.

The Individual Route evaluates evidence of an applicant's prior learning and experience for equivalence with the clinical and educational standards of courses recognised by the Society. It provides an alternative pathway for entry to the Society register. We welcome applications from practitioners who have received their education in homeopathy overseas or who have completed at least four years of part-time or three years of full-time study in this country, either independently or on a course not recognised by the Society.

Experiential learning in practice is also taken into account.

As an Individual Route applicant, you will be required to demonstrate achievement of learning outcomes equivalent to those of an applicant who has qualified from a recognised course. The process will enable you to show how your education and/or experience in practice can be accredited as comparable to that provided by a Society recognised course.

Our supportive process simply involves the submission of a portfolio demonstrating your qualifications and experience, followed by a meeting with members of the Society's friendly and helpful team.

For more information about the Society's Individual Route visit [www.homeopathy-soh.org](http://www.homeopathy-soh.org) or call Liz Wootliff on 01604 817890.

## **What do we mean by CPD?**

*"Registered and student clinical members should regularly monitor and evaluate their clinical skills and actively extend their knowledge base and their own personal development through continuing professional development"*  
*The Society of Homeopaths' Code of Ethics & Practice, Paragraph 17*

CPD occurs every time you learn anything of relevance to your homeopathic work. For example, it happens when you see a patient, work on a case, make sense of the outcomes of your treatment in a follow up, reflect on what occurred in your interaction with a patient or participate in a proving. It happens when you consider how to manage and grow your practice, design your information leaflets or website, manage yourself in relation to your practice or consider your effectiveness as a practitioner.

Learning with others, formally or informally, plays an important part in this process. This requires an investment of time but it doesn't necessarily have to cost much. Whatever you do – participate in peer-group supervision, research a remedy for yourself, take a regular exercise class or attend a seminar, the test for whether it counts as CPD lies in how useful and relevant it becomes to how you practise and whether it helps you improve your effectiveness as a practitioner.

And remember, what you learn in the context of clinical practice not only contributes to your own professional development, you may also be able to make a contribution to the profession as a whole when sharing your findings with a wider audience (e.g. in a Society publication or at a CPD day).

## **The Society of Homeopaths – regulatory body and membership organisation**

The Society of Homeopaths celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2013. It is the largest organisation registering homeopaths in Europe. In both its roles, as regulator and membership organisation, it is concerned with safeguarding the interests of the patient.

As a regulator, it monitors and assesses both the educational standards of course providers and the individual standards of practitioners through its education, registration and professional conduct departments. As a membership organisation, it offers CPD events designed to improve practitioners' clinical effectiveness over and

above their initial competency levels achieved through their college education and help them establish thriving practices. The Society also represents you in the public arena and raises awareness of homeopathy through media and PR work, conducting research, and providing professional conduct advice to patients and the public.

Currently, the purpose of the Society's registration programme therefore remains two-fold: firstly maintaining professional standards and secondly providing individual support.

Newly Registered Members enter into a registration agreement and commit themselves to abiding by the Society's Code of Ethics and Practice, working within the National Occupational Standards for Homeopathy and with the Society's Core Criteria for Homeopathic Practice and participating in the Society's CPD programme for Newly Registered Members.

The homeopathy profession does not have an established career pathway of the kind that many other professions can offer their newly qualified practitioners. As a membership organisation, the Society has therefore designed its registration process to support its members in developing their homeopathic practice in this particularly challenging environment.

### **Why register with the Society?**

In many lines of work, newly qualified professionals enjoy the benefit of structured employment and professional growth is guaranteed. In homeopathy on the other hand, opportunities to learn and receive guidance from more experienced colleagues are sparse. In addition, most homeopaths are self-employed and often work alone from home. The growth of a practice mainly depends on personal referrals. This can take time, requires confidence and determination, and perfecting these skills is the work of a lifetime.

It has been known for newly qualified practitioners to become rapidly isolated and discouraged. leading them to abandon their practices. Conversely, there have been those with the skills or opportunities to become busy relatively quickly who can find themselves experiencing 'burn out'. Neither of these scenarios is in the interests of patients, who will be on the receiving end of the consequences.

The last thirty years have seen a revival of interest in homeopathy accompanied by a rapid growth in the numbers interested in training and working as homeopaths. One of the challenges presently facing this embryonic profession is that its members establish thriving practices.

The Society's system of registration aims to provide a welcoming and supportive environment as you enter into your professional life. It offers opportunities for working towards a thriving practice, supporting yourself and your patients, networking with other practitioners and receiving affirmation of your achievements. For those who are already established in practice at the point of registration, the Society's registration programme offers a chance to review their work and perhaps seek new directions and challenges.

### **Registration Timeline**

Preliminary phase: Application for registration  
1st month: Introductory workshop and supervisor selection  
2nd month: CPD plan submission  
3rd month: CPD plan feedback  
9th-10th month: CPD portfolio preparation  
10th-12th month: CPD portfolio submission  
Review phase: CPD portfolio review and completion of Programme

### **Registration Process**

**All you need to do to apply for Registration, once you have confirmed that you are eligible, is:**

Simply complete and return the registration application form to the Society office. Please remember to include:

- a convenient date to attend an introductory workshop – a great opportunity to network with other members (see our website for list of dates)
- a copy of qualifications received from a Society recognised course or evidence of your eligibility via the Society's Individual Route
- the registration application fee of £65, payable to 'The Society of Homeopaths'. This fee includes the cost of attending the introductory workshop and initial feedback on your CPD plan. If you qualified before 2004 from a Society recognised course, the application fee is £95 and includes the cost of an extra meeting. Please note that

the application fee is non-returnable.

In return, we will send you:

- a letter of acknowledgement
- a membership fee invoice
- two copies of the registration agreement
- a return envelope
- your evidence of insurance

Before signing your registration agreement, please take a moment to read the Registration section on the Society's website at [www.homeopathy-soh.org/for-homeopaths/registration/](http://www.homeopathy-soh.org/for-homeopaths/registration/)

We would also recommend that you read:

- The National Occupational Standards for Homeopathy (NOS)
- The Society's Core Criteria (CC)
- The Society's Code of Ethics and Practice (CoE)

Please return the membership fee and one copy of your signed agreement within two weeks. Please remember to keep one copy for your own records. In signing the agreement, you confirm that you have read and understand the conditions of the registration agreement.

### **Nearly There!**

You will be pleased to hear that once the signed agreement and membership fee have been received by the Society, you are entitled to use the titles 'Registered Homeopath' and 'Registered with The Society of Homeopaths' plus the designation 'RSHom' on your stationery. The Registered members' logo which you can use on your stationery can be obtained by contacting the office.

### **The Society's commitment to you as a Newly Registered Member**

Upon receipt of your signed agreement and membership fee, the Society will:

- send out your registration certificate
- promote your name on the Society website register (this is updated regularly to ensure an efficient service for Registered members as well as members of the public searching for a local practitioner)
- arrange your connection to the Society's intranet, FirstClass Mail, if you have decided you would like to join this
- notify Yell that you are eligible to participate in the Yellow Pages/Yell.com Corporate Advertising Scheme

We can in some circumstances also provide insurance cover for other lower risk therapies you practise. Contact the office for further information.

### **Preparing for your Introductory Workshop**

We encourage you to start using FirstClass Mail (FCM) and enjoy the benefits of keeping up-to-date with developments in the homeopathic profession as well as participating in networking opportunities with colleagues.

Please read the 'New RSHom Folder' in the members' area of the website and in particular the following documents in preparation for your Introduction Day:

- The National Occupational Standards (NOS)
- The Society's Core Criteria (CC)
- The Society's Code of Ethics and Practice (CoE)
- 'The Role of Supervision in CPD' section in the CPD Toolkit

### **Attending your Introductory Workshop**

Please bring with you to the introductory workshop the Society Core Criteria, the Code of Ethics and Practice and 'The CPD Toolkit'.

### **Choosing a supervisor**

You can choose the supervisor you would like to work with. Please liaise directly with your supervisor to agree a supervision contract and fees for the duration of the registration programme.

The Society recommends that a supervisor be chosen from the Society's list of approved supervisors. This can be found at <http://www.homeopathy-soh.org/join-us/supervision>

However, if your preferred supervisor is not included in this list, they are very welcome to participate in a process that will enable them to become a Society approved supervisor.

To reduce costs, the Society encourages all Newly Registered Members to engage in facilitated peer group supervision. This also encourages valuable networking with other practitioners on the programme.

### **Preparation of a CPD plan**

Within six weeks of attending your Introduction Day, you will be asked to prepare a CPD plan and email it, together with the name of your chosen supervisor, to Liz Wootliff at Liz\_wootliff@homeopathy-soh.org. Sometimes emails from certain providers cannot be delivered. If your email has been returned or you have any doubt that the office has received your email, please phone Liz Wootliff.

### **Setting SMART objectives**

When writing your plan, please remember that the Society's Registration Programme is designed to respect you as a capable, responsible professional and provide appropriate challenge and support. Your CPD plan needs to focus on your particular interests, as well as your practice and personal development needs. Your plan should identify your own SMART objectives (see below) and relate to the Society's Core Criteria.

- Specific – the more precisely you can define your objective, the more likely you are to achieve it
- Measurable – you need to decide on objectives that you will be able to quantify and verify in your CPD portfolio
- Achievable – your objectives need to be capable of being accomplished
- Realistic – your objectives need to be attainable within the context of your particular circumstances (e.g. constraints of time and resources as well as other commitments)
- Time related – some of your objectives have to be realizable within the timeframe of the registration process (i.e. within the one-year CPD cycle from attending your Introduction Workshop)

### **Feedback on CPD plan**

A member of the Society's Review Team will send you feedback on your CPD plan by e-mail. Engagement in CPD activities and participation in regular supervision form part of the agreement as a Newly Registered Member.

### **Preparation of a CPD portfolio**

Please prepare a draft CPD portfolio and discuss it with your supervisor.

Once your portfolio is complete, please post two copies to the Society office at least 10 months but no later than 12 months after attending the introductory workshop. If you are unable to complete the portfolio in the specified time, you will need to negotiate a revised schedule with the Society.

### **Your CPD portfolio will contain:**

- your initial CPD plan
- the feedback letter from your reviewer on your initial CPD plan
- up to three reflective pieces on achieving some of your CPD objectives showing the impact that your CPD activities have had on your practice
- an evaluation and review of your actual CPD activities in relation to your original plan taking into account the Society's Core Criteria.
- reference to how you have used supervision and the impact this has had on your practice
- a new CPD plan for the following year arising from your evaluation and review

### **And finally – The review process and completion**

Upon receipt of your CPD portfolio, the Society office will check your portfolio for completeness and, if necessary, request extra items.

At this stage, you have the option of requesting feedback on your portfolio from one of the Society's team of reviewers. This may take the form of a meeting (face-to-face or Skype) or a letter. In either case, a fee of £75 is payable, if you choose this option. In this case, the Society will send you a letter to acknowledge completion of the registration programme approximately two weeks after the review meeting.

Alternatively, you may wish to arrange a meeting with your supervisor to discuss your portfolio and simply opt to have your portfolio checked for completeness. If your portfolio is considered to be incomplete, we may request extra items. Once we have ensured that your portfolio is complete, you will receive a letter to confirm that you have completed the Society's registration process.

### **Costs of registration**

- Registration fee: £65, or £95 if you qualified from a Society recognised course before 2004, (non-returnable) – payable on application. This includes:
  - Introduction Day
  - feedback on CPD plan
  - an extra meeting if you qualified before 2004
- Optional portfolio review charge: £75 – payable on submission of CPD portfolio
- Annual membership fee – this includes:
  - insurance cover
  - The Society's regular activities in promoting homeopathy and providing services to the membership and public

In recognition of the fact that newly qualified practitioners are just starting out, on application you will be offered an introductory rate for your insurance and membership. Current membership rates appear on the website in the for homeopaths section under membership levels.

### **The next step**

So what are you waiting for? We hope we have answered all your questions. Should you have further queries, please remember the Society is always available to talk to you. Our office is open from 08.00 – 16.30 hrs Monday to Friday or you can email us on [info@homeopathy-soh.org](mailto:info@homeopathy-soh.org)

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