

Scope of Practice Statement

This statement paper aims to define the Scope of Practice for homeopaths registered with the Society by setting out:

- General parameters applicable to all registered members.
- An outline for each member to develop their individual Scope of Practice.

It has been compiled through a process of collaboration between a working group consisting of the Society's Professional Standards Manager, two Directors and four registered members and incorporating feedback from the Society's Board and Professional Standards Committee.

Scope of Practice for Registered members

A registered member's Scope of Practice refers to the extent and limit of their skills, knowledge and experience. The scope of practice can be defined as the full spectrum of roles, functions, responsibilities, activities and decision-making capacity which individual practitioners are competent to perform.

1.1 In the Society of Homeopaths, Scope of Practice is informed by the Society's professional standards:

- National Occupational Standards (basic competencies).
- Core Criteria for Homeopathy Practice (informing the depth, breadth and level of competencies).
- Code of Ethics (providing the ethical dimension of practice).
- as well as the curricula of approved partner colleges or approved equivalent learning pathways.

1.2 Full Scope of Practice is based on:

- Experience, within a context of reflective practice.
- Appropriate supervision.
- Continuing professional development.
- Knowledge of one's limitations and the restrictions imposed by Public Health Regulations/National Medical Regulations.
- Compliance with professional and local Safeguarding guidelines.

1.3 Recognising and keeping within the scope of practice is a professional obligation set out within our Code of Ethics. *Section 3 - Professional obligations 20/21 page 7*). As a registering body the Society engages in self-regulation, validated by the Professional Standards Authority. Our members have a personal responsibility to maintain and manage their own skill base and continuing professional development.

- 1.4** The Society of Homeopaths accepts members onto its register who can demonstrate they have undertaken the highest level of education and clinical practice in homeopathy. This is currently equivalent to Higher Education Level 6, so incorporates the ability to critically evaluate different approaches and research findings. All members demonstrate an ongoing commitment to uphold these high professional standards.
- 1.5** Our members only carry out a task or type of treatment or make decisions about a patient's care if they are sure they have the necessary skills and are appropriately trained, competent and insured. Based on areas of expertise and skills, which have been studied prior to registration, Scope of Practice expands as practitioners grow and develop in practice.

A definition of a homeopath

2.1 A homeopath registered with the Society of Homeopaths practises as a healthcare professional within the context of an integrated healthcare ideal, favouring an approach which is complementary to other treatment systems.

2.2 Homeopathy is a form of *holistic** healing practised by qualified practitioners and medical doctors. The aim of homeopathic treatment is restoration of health and the ease of suffering. Membership of the Society of Homeopaths covers work as a treatment modality for humans, although Homeopathy can also be used to treat animals and plants.

2.3 The practice of Homeopathy is based on:

- The principle of similars*(treating like with like).
- The principle of individualisation*, based on detailed anamnesis (case taking).
- The use of potentized *remedies and other preparations, as laid out in homeopathic pharmacopoeias.
- The principle of the minimum dose.*
- The use of remedy information based on provings*, supported by clinical data and scientific research.

2.4 These are the key principles of homeopathic practice as formulated by Dr Samuel Hahnemann in the nineteenth century. Ongoing developments since then have led to a range of schools of thought, different applications and ways of practising, many of which have become integrated into pre-qualification courses.



A homeopath's area of work

3.1 All registered members of the Society of homeopaths will:

- Be adept at individualising treatment based on full consultation and evaluation.
- Be competent to offer holistic diagnosis and prognosis based on the principles of homeopathy.
- Work from a person-centred approach.
- Be competent to make use of remedies prepared in accordance with the standard works of homeopathic pharmacopoeia.
- Prescribe according to the principles of homeopathy.
- Keep full, accurate and contemporaneous patient records.
- With patient consent, make appropriate referrals to other healthcare professionals for advice and assistance outside of the Homeopath's scope of practice or area of expertise and responsibility e.g. diagnostic and other services, additional therapies.
- Provide or signpost information and advice, supporting patients to make informed choices regarding their wellbeing.
- Limit physical examinations to those that they are competent and qualified to undertake.

Contribution to healthcare provision and the community

4.2 All our registrants are committed to enhancing the UK public's health and wellbeing. Because homeopaths focus on a holistic approach to health, build trusted relationships with their patients, and typically have comparatively long treatment sessions, they are ideally placed to deliver brief interventions and effective signposting regarding general health promotion.

4.1 Practitioners registered with the Society of Homeopaths may, in the course of their work, actively support public health by encouraging their patients to make a range of lifestyle changes. These could include adjustments to diet and nutrition, support with giving up smoking, weight control, stress reduction, improving sleep, managing pain and other symptoms, as well as overall enhancements to wellbeing.

Individualised Scope of Practice

5.1 Each member of the Society of Homeopaths will develop and expand their own personal Scope of Practice and is encouraged to review and refine this on an ongoing basis as their practice develops. They may:

- Develop and promote a special focus of interest within their practice that addresses the needs of a specific group.
- Become qualified and proficient in the application of homeopathy within a specialised, integrative context.
- Offer an adjunctive therapy, which is beyond the scope of homeopathic education, providing evidence that they are suitably qualified.

5.2 Registered members of the Society of Homeopaths who use additional therapies will ensure that the patient is always clear about any different or additional treatment modalities being used, and that the treatment options have been agreed. Such additional therapies, which are distinct from homeopathy, are only practised by members who can demonstrate capability, competence and insurance required to do so.

Glossary

Holistic - Considering all aspects that contribute to health and disease in a given case, not just a collection of symptoms – a whole-person model of health.

Potentiation - A special form of attenuation as specified and defined in official homeopathic pharmacopoeias. Remedies can be used safely; they generally do not have side effects.

Similars - A substance which causes certain symptoms in a well person can be used in dilution/preparation to cure similar symptoms in an ill patient.

Minimum Dose - Dosage, potency choice and repetition of remedies is based on the minimum amount to effect change.

Provings - The method by which the full range of symptoms which a substance can both produce and treat is identified. Healthy 'provers' submit to a series of tests, according to principles developed by Hahnemann and other homeopaths. The resulting data is organised in the homeopathic materia medica and repertories.