

Standardised data collection tool – an update

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One of NCOR's core projects is to develop a standardised data collection (SDC) tool for osteopaths.

How can standardised data collection assist you, the osteopath?

Standardised data collection can be a systematic way for **all interested osteopaths to collect the same data about patients and practice**, to provide information that the profession urgently needs about itself. This type of information can be collected for short periods of time on a snapshot basis, looking at discrete topic areas:

- profiles of your patients
- profiles of your practice
- data on which to base your own agenda for audits
- service delivery to inform insurers or Primary Care Trusts
- data on which to base research questions
- data on safety and adverse reactions, informed consent, insurance and clinical governance.

What can standardised data collection do for you and your practice?

The information gathered across the profession using a standardised data collection tool can provide information to assist with:

- marketing your practice
- giving presentations to interested parties, e.g. patient groups, GPs or primary care trusts
- providing information to insurers
- providing information on training needs for your practice and your personal development

What has been achieved so far?

Many practitioners have attended research hub meetings over the past 18 months and contributed their ideas concerning the type of useful information to be included in a standardised data collection tool. The data collection tool will be further developed, refined and piloted throughout 2008, following the process outlined below.

While this process may seem quite long, it is vitally important that the data collection tool is user-friendly and not too cumbersome; that the data collected is relevant and useful; and that the questions are completely unambiguous. This can only be achieved by piloting and refining the data collection tool. All data submitted during

the development of the tool will be anonymous and will only be handled by the research team at the University of Brighton.

Flowchart for the development of a standardised data collection (SDC) tool for osteopathy



Long-term goal

Many osteopaths have expressed an interest in collecting data within their own practices; others have collected large quantities of data but been unclear how to use it to benefit their practice. The standardised data collection process will allow more osteopaths to **collect the same data**, submit it anonymously and **pool the information**.

Qualitative data will also be collected to accompany the study, so that the views of osteopaths can be sought on the future use of the tool, including the duration and topics for future data collection phases.