

***The development of a
Standardised Data Collection Tool
for osteopaths***
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One of NCOR's main projects is to develop a standardised data collection (SDC) tool for osteopaths. Standardised data collection is a systematic way to collect patient and practice data to provide information the profession badly needs about itself. This type of information could help you with:

- ◆ Profiles of your patients and practice.
- ◆ Data on which to base your own agenda for audits.
- ◆ Data on which to base standard setting for audits.
- ◆ Outcomes of care (e.g. broad based outcome categories including onward referral to GPs, normal discharge times when patients are pain free etc).
- ◆ Service delivery (readily available for insurers or PCTs).
- ◆ 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 using a standardised data collection tool across the profession can provide information to assist with:

- ◆ Marketing your practice
- ◆ Giving advice to your patients – both current and potential
- ◆ Giving presentations to interested parties e.g. patient groups, GPs or PCTs
- ◆ 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 and contributed their ideas concerning the type of useful information to be included in a standardised data collection tool.

Examples of some of the information are described below:

1. Patient profiles including
 - ◆ age
 - ◆ sex
 - ◆ ethnicity
 - ◆ registered disability status
 - ◆ occupation

2. Symptom profiles including
 - ◆ site of symptoms
 - ◆ duration of symptoms
 - ◆ intensity of pain
 - ◆ recording of pain/disability score (e.g. on a visual analogue scale)
 - ◆ mode of onset of symptoms
 - ◆ general health status (including medication)
 - ◆ presence of any co-morbidities

3. Therapeutic history including
 - ◆ previous consultations
 - ◆ previous investigation(s)
 - ◆ outcome(s) of previous investigation(s)
 - ◆ outcome(s) of previous treatment

4. Osteopathic management including
 - ◆ diagnosis made
 - ◆ treatment delivered
 - ◆ use of any adjunctive treatment or other additional management strategies

5. Outcomes of treatment

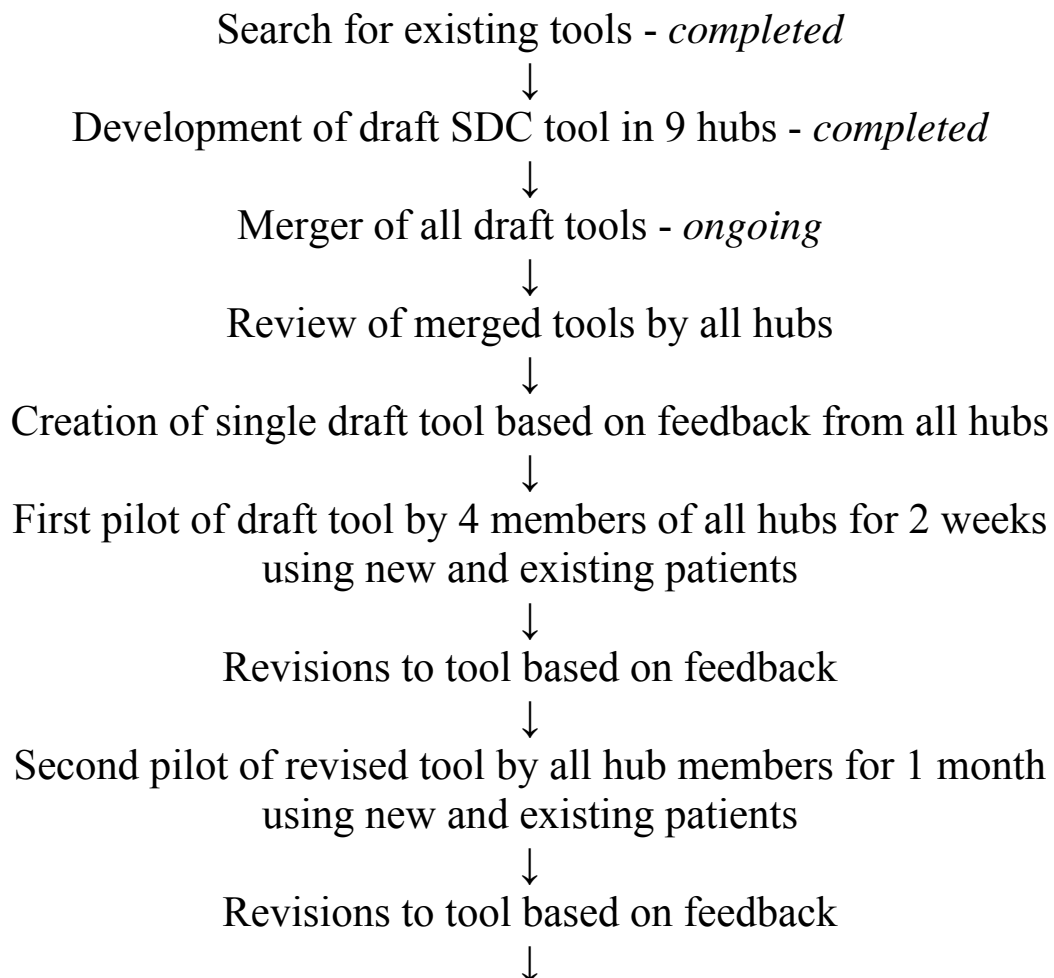
- ◆ response (both beneficial and adverse) to treatment
- ◆ change in visual analogue scores

6. Financial information concerning

- ◆ cost of treatment
- ◆ further investigations requested

The data collection tool will be further developed, refined and piloted throughout 2008 and will follow the process outlined below.

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



Third pilot by a selection of 4 non-hub members in each hub region for 1 month using new and existing patients



Revisions to tool based on feedback



National pilot of tool by random sample (1 in 5) of the profession on all new patients for 3 months



Analysis of data



Preparation of report based on findings and analysis of data

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; individual practice and practitioner information can then be compared with the pooled data. The pooled data will be analysed and the information made readily available for members of the profession to use.