

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Version 4.0

Information Form

Welcome!

I. Why is this survey important?

According to our estimates, there are over 1,000 professional osteopathic practitioners working in Switzerland holding an intercantonal diploma in osteopathy. In June 2016, the Swiss Parliament adopted the Healthcare Occupations Act (GesBG/LPSan) which recognises osteopathy as a primary care health profession. However, little is known about the services that osteopaths offer and the contribution they make to public health. The osteopath community expressed a willingness to support a study that would help raise awareness of their work and the profession in general. The Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Research in Osteopathy therefore commissioned the School of Health Sciences Fribourg (HEdS-FR) to carry out an evaluation of osteopathic services in Switzerland.

The aim of the survey is to gain a better understanding of the role of osteopaths in the Swiss health care system. To this end, it will endeavour to pinpoint the types and scope of osteopathic practice in Switzerland, and to profile patients seeking osteopathic treatment. The data you provide will make it possible to describe the profession more clearly and will help to formulate teaching goals, plan professional development courses, identify research priorities, and provide statistics and information that can be used in stakeholder negotiations. Your data will also make it possible to perform international comparisons and will help define national priorities for inclusion in a global strategy for the profession worldwide. Nationally, the survey should equip osteopaths to better explain their work to other health professions and the public, which in turn should lead to greater recognition of the valuable contribution they make to the Swiss primary health care system.

II. Who can take part?

Participants must be either a trained osteopath with a GDK-CDS diploma or an osteopathic assistant who is currently working for an osteopath who holds a GDK-CDS diploma.

III. How is the survey organised?

The survey is divided into three parts: A, B and C. You are currently reading Part A, which explains the purpose of the survey and how the data you provide will be used.

Part B applies to both practising and non-practising osteopaths. It contains a series of 29 short questions about you and your clinical practice. This section should take no longer than 10-15 minutes to complete and requires no additional material.

Part C applies only to osteopaths who were in clinical practice in 2016. The questions deal with the type of patients who received treatment in 2016 and the nature of the services delivered. Ideally, participants should provide anonymised information on a total of four randomly selected patients.

Entering data for each patient should take 5-20 minutes depending on the complexity of the given case. Part C is designed in such a way that respondents can complete a portion of it and return later to finish the rest. To ensure that the research team cannot link the respondent to the information provided, all anonymised data provided in Part C will be saved separately from the data provided in Part B.

IV. Why should I take part?

Your participation will make a valuable contribution to the profession. Reporting information about your work will not only raise awareness of what you do, but it will also allow to devise professional development plans that are better tailored to your needs.

Participation in the survey is voluntary. However, should you prefer not to take part, we would be very grateful if you could let us know the reasons why.

The survey will only be useful if it reflects what we osteopaths actually do. This is why it is important that answers are as accurate as possible. If you are unable to answer certain question, simply tick the box 'don't know/can't tell from the records'.

V. Do I need to obtain my patients' consent to use their records for the purposes of this survey?

No, since this study is an audit of anonymised non-personal data. The Data Protection and Information Commissioners have confirmed that under this condition you are not obliged to seek the consent of your patients to use their records for the purposes of completing this questionnaire. Nonetheless, in the interests of raising patient awareness of our research aimed at improving the quality of osteopathic care, we encourage you to download and print the following flyer to inform your patients. Once again, we would like to remind you that you are under no obligation to do so.

 OsteoSurvey



bit.ly/2njxyMy

VI. Where will my data go, who will use it, and how?

The data you enter will be encrypted and sent over the internet using RedCap, a dedicated service developed by the University of Vanderbilt for non-profit institutions to run highly secure surveys and studies containing potentially sensitive data. This system will transfer your data to a certified data centre sited on the server of the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland (HES-SO); all information will be processed and hosted in accordance with data protection regulations. Answers will be anonymised and IP addresses will not be disclosed to the research team. The system automatically manages your survey status, which means that research staff will not be able to identify you from the responses you have provided. Only HEdS-FR research personnel will have access to the complete, anonymised dataset. The data will remain the property of the HEdS-FR, which will use it to advance existing knowledge, identify areas for future research, and formulate policy and service-related recommendations. However, the final research report will be made public, and the Foundation for the Promotion of Education and Research in Osteopathy will have the right to use and disseminate the findings as they see fit.

VII. What do I gain from taking part?

By taking part, you are helping to guarantee the quality of the survey. Your involvement will be important not only for you personally but also for the profession as a whole and your future patients. Survey participation also counts as 6 hours of ongoing training. Upon request, we will issue you with a HEdS-FR certificate of ongoing training, recognised by the SVO-FSO under category C.

VIII. What if I have queries about the survey?

The above information is also available on our website.



bit.ly/2nPkFen

If you have any questions, please contact Roy Macdonald during normal office hours on Wednesday, on Thursday afternoons or on Friday mornings at +41 (0)26 429 6113 or at roy.macdonald@hefr.ch.