



About CNHC and CNHC registration

- *I am CNHC registered, I am registered with CNHC, or I am a CNHC registrant.*
- *CNHC holds a UK wide register of practitioners who have met nationally agreed standards and I am one of them.*
- *Anyone can claim they are a complementary therapist in the UK. With around one in five members of the public using complementary therapies, it's really important they choose properly trained, qualified and insured practitioners.*
- *Nearly 70% of people questioned by CNHC did not know that anyone can practise as a complementary therapist in the UK without any training, qualifications or insurance. When they found out that this was the case, nearly 88% said they would look for a CNHC registered practitioner in future.*

About being on CNHC's Accredited Register

- *CNHC has been accredited as the holder of an Accredited Register (AR).*
- *I am on CNHC's Accredited Register or AR.*
- *The government recommends that where patients or service users are looking for a health practitioner who is not regulated by law, they always consult a practitioner on an Accredited Register like CNHC's.*
- *This accreditation shows that CNHC has met the demanding standards of the Professional Standards Authority (PSA).*
- *CNHC's Quality Mark shows I am on CNHC's Accredited Register.*
- *For GPs and GP practice managers: The General Medical Council (GMC) referral guidance to confirms that GPs can refer patients to practitioners on Accredited Registers.*

Information about The Complementary & Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC)

1. Who we are and what we do

- CNHC is the UK voluntary regulator for complementary healthcare practitioners
- We were set up with government funding and support in 2008
- Our sole purpose is to protect the public, which is different to professional associations who also focus on their members

- We register complementary therapies, which are used to *complement (or sit alongside)* conventional healthcare. We do NOT use the term 'alternative' which implies therapies that are used instead of conventional healthcare

2. Our public interest role

- We hold a register of practitioners who meet UK-wide national standards
- We set the standards that practitioners need to meet to get onto, and then stay on, the register
- CNHC registrants agree to comply with our Code of Conduct, Ethics and Performance
- We investigate complaints from the public about alleged breaches of the code
- We impose disciplinary procedures and sanctions that mirror those of the statutory healthcare regulators.

3. Our register

- We register practitioners from 16 different disciplines
 - Alexander Technique Teaching
 - Aromatherapy
 - Bowen Therapy
 - Colon Hydrotherapy
 - Craniosacral Therapy
 - Healing
 - Hypnotherapy
 - Massage Therapy
 - Microsystems Acupuncture
 - Naturopathy
 - Nutritional Therapy
 - Reflexology
 - Reiki
 - Shiatsu
 - Sports Therapy
 - Yoga Therapy
- There are National Occupational Standards (NOS) for each discipline on our register, which means the government has invested in developing these standards for safe and competent practice
- We have over 6000 practitioners on our register.

4. Our accreditation with PSA

- We hold an Accredited Register (AR) approved by the [Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care](#)
- PSA is the independent government-appointed body that oversees and scrutinises the work of the nine statutory medical, health and care regulators, including the General Medical Council (GMC), the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC)
- PSA Accreditation means that we have met PSA's demanding standards in the areas of:
 - Governance
 - Setting standards

- Education and training
- Managing the register
- Providing information
- Handling complaints
- It reinforces confidence for the public, employers and healthcare commissioners.

5. What accreditation means for CNHC registered practitioners

- CNHC registrants can proudly state that they ‘*stand up for standards*’
- Use of CNHC’s quality mark, demonstrating their commitment to professionalism and high standards.

6. Accreditation does not equal regulation

The Professional Standards Authority is not a regulator and having accreditation does not make an organisation a regulator. Professional associations may hold an Accredited Register, but they also have a duty to act in the interest of their members. Unlike those organisations, CNHC was set up with government funding and support with the sole purpose of protecting the public. To find out more from the Professional Standards Authority itself, watch this video: [Accredited Registers - Let's work together](#)

The Professional Standards Authority:

- accredits organisations – not individual practitioners
- holds a directory of organisations that have been accredited, which includes CNHC
- accredits the register, not the therapy or profession (and does not endorse any treatment or service)

7. General Medical Council (GMC) updates its guidance to doctors

Following a suggestion made by CNHC, the General Medical Council (GMC) has amended its referral guidance to doctors to include practitioners on accredited registers. This means that doctors can refer patients to CNHC registrants, as they are all on CNHC's Accredited Register. However, this does not mean that NHS funding will automatically follow.

8. Statements about the Accredited Register programme

- a. The joint report ‘[Untapped Resources: Accredited Registers in the Wider Workforce](#)’ published in November 2017 from the Royal Society of Public and Health (RSPH) and Professional Standards Authority (PSA) highlighted that:

“Practitioners registered with CNHC support public health by encouraging their clients to make a range of lifestyle changes. These include improvements to diet and nutrition, support with giving up smoking and losing weight, support with reducing stress, improving sleep, managing pain and other symptoms, as well as overall enhancements to wellbeing.”
- b. NHS England has confirmed that practitioners registered with an Accredited Register provide greater assurance on standards of patient safety and service quality under Any Qualified Provider (AQP) scheme and says that Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are already benefiting from the scheme.¹

¹ Bulletin for CCGs: issue 47, 28 November 2013

- c. Chief Nursing Officer Jane Cummings included a note for commissioners in her November 2013 bulletin²:
“Commissioners buying the services of unregulated health and social care practitioners will benefit from the layer of protection provided by the Professional Standards Authority’s Accredited [Voluntary] Registers scheme.” Adding,
“Commissioners should look out for the accreditation mark, a sign that a practitioner has demonstrated a personal commitment to quality by joining a register that meets the Authority’s high standards.”
 - d. On 3 November, speaking in the House of Commons, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health, Jane Ellison MP, said:
“Both the Government and the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) recommend that when a patient or service user chooses to visit a health or care practitioner who is unregulated, only those on an accredited register are consulted.”
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