

Who needs to be registered?

This fact sheet provides guidance about who needs to be registered as an osteopath under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act* (the National Law) as in force in each state and territory.

Under the National Law, a person who is not a registered health practitioner (includes osteopaths) must not:

1. use the title “registered health practitioner” (includes osteopaths) with or without any other words (s. 116(a))
2. take or use a title, name, initial, symbol, word or description that, having regard to the circumstances in which it is taken or used, indicates or could be reasonably understood to indicate, that the person is a health practitioner (includes osteopaths) or is authorised or qualified to practise in a health profession (s. 116(b))
3. claim to be registered under the National Law or hold themselves out registered under the National Law (s. 116(c))
4. claim to be qualified to practise as a health practitioner(s. 116(d))
5. undertake manipulation of the cervical spine unless they are registered in an appropriate profession (currently osteopathy, chiropractic, physiotherapy or medicine) (see section 123 below).

The Board uses a broad definition of practice in its registration standards which reflects its views about when a practitioner should be registered. Practice is defined in the Board’s Recency of Practice Registration Standard as meaning:

any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a health practitioner in their profession. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes working in a direct nonclinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession and/or use their professional skills.

The Board has several categories of registration:

- General registration, for osteopaths who are practising
- Non-practising, for osteopaths who are not practising
- Student, for students completing an entry to practice qualification
- Limited registration, which applies to specific situations, eg for overseas qualified osteopaths to complete a practical exam as part of assessing their qualifications for Australian practice

Do practitioners need to be registered?

Yes, if they are:

- Using the title osteopath, eg advertising themselves as an osteopath in Australia, or
- Using a title, name, initial, symbol, word or description that, having regard to the circumstances in which it is taken or used, indicates or could be reasonably understood to indicate, that the person is a health practitioner (eg an osteopath) or is authorised or qualified to practise in a health profession, or

- Holding themselves out as a registered osteopath, eg by offering clinical services to the general public , or
- Claiming to be qualified to practice as an osteopath, or
- Undertaking manipulation of the cervical spine

Do course presenters from overseas need to be registered?

Yes, if they are:

- Using the title osteopath, eg advertising themselves as an osteopath
- Holding themselves out as a registered osteopath in Australia, eg by offering clinical services to the general public
- Undertaking manipulation of the cervical spine

No, if:

- They only use the title osteopath with words explaining their status in Australia eg osteopath (registered in the United Kingdom - not registered in Australia), osteopath (qualified in Canada - not registered in Australia), or
- They do not hold themselves out as a osteopath registered in Australia, or
- They do not undertake manipulation of the cervical spine

Do course attendees from overseas need to be registered?

Yes, if they are:

- Holding themselves out as a registered osteopath in Australia, eg by offering clinical services to the general public
- Undertaking manipulation of the cervical spine

No, if:

- They only use the title osteopath with words explaining their status in Australia eg osteopath (registered in the United Kingdom - not registered in Australia), osteopath (qualified in Canada - not registered in Australia)
- They do not hold themselves out as a registered osteopath, eg they do not offer any services to the general public, or
- They do not undertake manipulation of the cervical spine