

## **Advice on Continued Safe Practice during the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

The Prime Minister Boris Johnson addressed the nation on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy subsequently issued [guidance](#) on working safely during coronavirus on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May.

### **Context:**

The advice issued to this point has been that patients attending for face to face consultations be for urgent care based on medical need and that informed consent, together with protecting patient, employees and yourself are necessary.

Attending a Chiropractic practice has been deemed essential travel under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) 2020 legislation. With the Prime Minister urging those that cannot work from home to return to work we appreciate that members of the public that had previously not been at work would wish to return and this will equally apply to those Chiropractors who may have closed their practices.

We are aware that this is against a background where the R-value as a measure of the transmission of Covid-19 has fallen below 1 with an estimated value between 0.5 and 0.9, which indicates that the number of cases is contracting. In addition to this a majority of regular care has ceased or been markedly reduced meaning that many patients have not been seen or able to be seen for face to face care for possibly two months or more. As such the demand and need for Chiropractic care and services has increased and we are aware that practices are receiving increased requests and demand for care as patients report a deterioration in their health status.

It is as important that in the context of increasing demand that patient safety is a continued priority. The General Chiropractic Council in their advice note on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March highlighted the need to have due regard for the Code and particularly Principle A to put patients health first, respect them and ensure that you promote their health and welfare at all times.

### **A Safe Work Place:**

#### **Assess Risk:**

The guidance on how to ensure a Covid Secure workplace also highlights the need to ensure the safety of those that work in your practice as well as yourself. You have a responsibility to perform a risk assessment for Covid-19 to provide a safe workplace. If you have less than five employees or are self employed you do not need to write anything down however we advise that it is good practice and will demonstrate compliance with the Code. The Royal College of Chiropractors has provided guidance on factors to consider in a risk assessment in the Chiropractic context and is available [here](#). The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have [interactive tools](#) to assist in performing a risk assessment along with the resources already provided your member association.

In considering the risks for Covid-19 and determining if it is safe to provide face to face care we advise that if such care is being provided that it be restricted to the non vulnerable groups at this stage and any care for the clinically vulnerable (over 70's) and extremely vulnerable groups be done remotely. This can be kept under review as the threat of transmission reduces or the government advice alters in relation to such groups.

Risks can be mitigated by the using but not limited to appropriate triage, [PPE](#), [social distancing](#) and hygiene measures for example. Whilst it is for the individual Chiropractor/practice to determine the risks associated with particular techniques, Chiropractic in general would be classified as a non-aerosol generating procedure for the purposes of PPE and it is important to be aware of the requirements for and appropriate use of [PPE](#).

Your member association has and is regularly providing advice and it is important to keep yourself updated as advice changes in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Martin".

Bernadette Martin  
McTimoney Chiropractic Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross M. McDonald".

Ross McDonald  
Scottish Chiropractic Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul McCrossin".

Paul McCrossin  
United Chiropractic Association

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