

## What does accreditation by the Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care mean for CNHC registered practitioners?

CNHC is unique in having been established with government support to act as the UK voluntary regulator for complementary health practitioners. We hold a UK register of complementary health practitioners who have met UK standards.

CNHC is also the holder of a [Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care \(PSA\) Accredited Register](#).

The PSA is the independent government-appointed body that oversees and scrutinises the work of the nine statutory medical, health and care regulators. These include the General Medical Council, the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the Health and Care Professionals Council. Since March 2012 PSA has also been able to accredit registers of health and care occupations that are not regulated by law and CNHC has been the holder of an Accredited Register since 2013.

In October 2017 the PSA and the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH), issued a report on the role of practitioners on Accredited Registers, which highlights 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. All CNHC registrants are committed to enhancing the UK public’s health and wellbeing.”*

One of the recommendations in the report is that practitioners on Accredited Registers should be able to refer directly to NHS healthcare professionals, in appropriate cases, thereby reducing the strain on overstretched GP services.

The report came about after the actions of CNHC, which highlighted the omission of complementary therapies from an earlier RSPH report on the role that occupations such as hairdressers or librarians could play in promoting the public health agenda.

- **All practitioners on CNHC’s register can say that they are on CNHC’s Accredited Register.** No additional steps are necessary. All new registrants will also automatically be included on the Accredited Register.
- **You can receive GP referrals.** Following a suggestion made by CNHC, the General Medical Council (GMC) amended its guidance to doctors. It now advises that when referring to a practitioner who is not a doctor or other statutorily regulated health professional, doctors must: *‘..... be satisfied that systems are in place to assure the safety and quality of care provided – for example, the services have been commissioned through an NHS commissioning process or the practitioner is on a register accredited by the Professional Standards Authority.’*

Doctors can now refer patients wanting complementary therapies to CNHC registrants as they are all on CNHC's Accredited Register. This does not mean, though, that NHS funding will automatically follow. You can see the full wording of the GMC guidance here at section 8: [GMC Delegation and Referral Guidance](#)

- **You can use CNHC’s quality mark** which includes the confirmation of registration on CNHC’s Accredited Register. Using CNHC’s quality mark shows your commitment to professionalism and high standards. This quality mark is available for CNHC registered practitioners to download by logging into [MyCNHC](#) along with the revised terms of use which must be read and adhered to.
- **You can download a letter to take to your GP practice** along with our CNHC leaflet and poster by logging into [MyCNHC](#).

- **You can include your details on CNHC information leaflets.** You can login to [MyCNHC](#) and download our 'Information about CNHC' leaflet which you can tailor with details of your CNHC registered therapies and contact details, then get them printed locally.

As the voluntary regulator, CNHC registration is already required or recommended by an increasing number of employers and commissioners of services. We are now working hard alongside the Professional Standards Authority to raise awareness of CNHC's accreditation amongst the general public and a wide range of organisations.

CNHC's aim is to enhance the importance of looking for CNHC registration and to maximise the advantages of being on CNHC's accredited register including:

- greater public awareness
- greater awareness amongst NHS employers and commissioners
- more chance of referrals from doctors and insurers
- providing additional assurance for standards of patient safety and service quality in the Any Qualified Provider scheme in England.

### **What accreditation with the Professional Standards Authority is NOT – dispelling the myths!**

We realise that this can seem confusing so here we dispel some of the myths:

**Accreditation is not regulation.** The Professional Standards Authority is not a regulator and having accreditation does not make an organisation a regulator. CNHC is already a regulator. Accreditation means that the organisation has been accredited as the *holder* of an Accredited Register.

#### **In addition, the Professional Standards Authority does not:**

- **accredit individual practitioners.** It accredits organisations. As a CNHC registrant you can say that you are on CNHC's Accredited Register.
- **endorse any treatment or service.** It accredits the register, not the therapy or profession.
- **hold a register of individuals.** It holds a directory of organisations that have been accredited. CNHC is on this directory.



Watch the [Professional Standards Authority's video](#) to find out more about the Accredited Registers scheme.

Click here to read the PSA's [Let's Work Together to improve health and social care campaign leaflet](#)