

19 June 2023

Re Students taking part in CPD seminars

Dear ,

As you will be aware, we raised concerns at the Forum of Deans on 12 May that a minority of student chiropractors were independently taking part in technique seminars outside of their educational programme.

While we do not want to dampen the student's enthusiasm to learn and explore the profession of chiropractic, this must always be balanced with the need to prevent harm and demonstrate professionalism (specifically part G of The Code - practice within the limits of competence). This is a key aspect of preserving the safety of patients.

We have real concerns that these students could injure themselves or another course attendee during one of these seminars or, more seriously, could injure a patient if they were to attempt a technique beyond their competence within the clinical phase of their training.

I would like your assistance in raising awareness of your expectations in this regard with your students.

- You may wish to place the onus of responsibility onto students in balancing their desire to learn with the need for due diligence – both in ensuring that their extra-curricular learning is appropriate, and in considering their personal competence as a practitioner.
- You may suggest they consider who would be responsible should their participation lead to injury. It is not clear to us that an individual student, seminar organiser (or indeed a clinical advisor during the clinical phase) would be covered by indemnity insurance if they were to attempt a technique that you had not taught them.
- You may highlight that we would expect Fitness to Practise proceedings to be utilised where students have participated in events and provided treatment to another student or individual when they are not competent or insured to do so.
- You may also wish to remind them of the process by which they should share concerns about the fitness to practise of their student colleagues.

We are nearing the end of the CPD year, and there are therefore more CPD events happening that could attract student attendance. I would appreciate it if you could let me know by the end of October 2023 how you have taken action.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter.

Kind regards



Nick Jones

Chief Executive & Registrar