

NEWS RELEASE

DATE: January 13th 2012

WHICH? Report February 2012

TITLE: Are Nutritional Therapists Gambling with Your Health?

BANT has the following comments to make on the WHICH report -

BANT did not decline to comment on this article but was unable to comment for the print edition because WHICH did not provide all the promised transcripts/questionnaires in a timely fashion.

It is disappointing that WHICH appears to have little interest in conducting a genuine review of the effectiveness of nutritional therapy preferring instead to use fictitious consultations and a biased panel of 'experts'.

We would have hoped that the panel would have included qualified and experienced nutritional therapists who would have been able to assess the performance of the targeted practitioners against the National Occupational Standard, (Skills for Health). As in other professions, assessment of practitioner performance would normally involve experts from that profession.

Concern was expressed about lack of referrals to GPs but our review reveals frequent reference to working with the client's GP or consultant. However, several of the clients made up stories that they were either dissatisfied with their GP and did not wish to make contact, would not provide details or said that they were moving to a new GP.

As the professional body for nutritional therapists, BANT is dedicated to the advancement of nutrition science and the safe, evidence-informed practice of nutritional therapy.

Instilling public confidence and offering consumer protection is of primary importance to BANT. BANT members are bound by a strict code of ethics designed to protect patient interests and procedures are in place to deal with any complaint brought against a BANT member.

BANT would welcome the opportunity to discuss the future of nutritional therapy regulation to further develop safe and effective practice. We agree that practitioners should come under statutory regulation.

NOTES TO EDITORS

BANT is the UK-wide professional body representing 2400+ Nutritional Therapy practitioners

A non-profit organization set up in February 1997, BANT is funded by member subscriptions and has no link to the pharmaceutical or agrochemical industries

BANT members work to the National Occupational Standards for Nutritional Therapy as set by the sector skills council Skills for Health www.skillsforhealth.org.uk

Nutritional Therapy is classified as 'Complementary and Alternative Medicine' as it is based in a 'functional medicine' paradigm distinct from both dietetic and public health nutrition practice. See www.functionalmedicine.org

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