



**UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES  
BRIEFING NOTE FOR CHIROPRACTIC PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS  
15 JUNE 2009**

**1 Background**

- 1.1 Within the last week or so GCC has received complaints against 500+ registrants in relation to the content of websites. We're currently going through all the complaints to be sure that supporting evidence has been included in the data supplied.
- 1.2 We anticipate that by the end of the week we will have sent to every relevant registrant a copy of the complaint(s) against them.
- 1.3 Within our current legislative framework, each complaint would have to be considered on its merits by the Investigating Committee (IC) and a decision made in each instance whether there is a 'case to answer'.

**2 GCC action to date**

- 2.1 Legislative change. The Privy Council Office has been asked to expedite a section 60 Order to achieve the following changes that GCC identified some time ago for inclusion in an anticipated portmanteau Order spanning necessary changes for all the healthcare regulators
  - raising the referral threshold for the IC from 'case to answer' to 'realistic prospect of success'
  - providing powers for the consensual disposal of complaints by the IC in cases where referral to the PCC is not required in the public interest.
- 2.2 Review of evidence for chiropractic care. GCC has commissioned a project focussed on what underpins evidence based care for a variety of conditions. It will use the Sackett, D (2000) definition  
*"The integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values."*

**3 Contact with Trading Standards offices**

3.1 Half a dozen Trading Standards offices have been in touch with GCC regarding complaints they've received about chiropractors' websites in relation to the treatment of infant colic. They have been provided with some brief background about the context for the complaints and the evidence that GCC relies on in respect of what we say in our patient information leaflet (copy attached).

**4 Maintaining progress on other key priorities**

4.1 Revalidation. The Revalidation Working Group is being reconvened and I will be emailing everyone separately to check their availability for 27 July.

4.2 Autumn briefing events. I'm planning to confirm the dates and locations of the seven events by the end of this week. All registrants will be contacted direct and invited to let us know which event they wish to attend.

Margaret Coats  
Chief Executive & Registrar  
15 June 2009