



## Trusts Association

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### **NHS Directory Of Complementary And Alternative Practitioners**

Dear Colleague.

Following the House of Lords Scientific & Technology Committee's Sixth Report in 2000 on the subject of Complementary and Alternative Medicine, it became apparent to the NHSTA that there was a clear need for a dedicated resource enabling GPs to identify those complementary practitioners who had a commitment to working with and treating NHS patients.

As the Association is sure you are aware, there is a growing popularity amongst the general public for alternative and complementary medicine, and many patients report benefit derived from complementary treatment.

Prior to the launch of the Directory there was a multiplicity of websites and organisations offering varying degrees of information. Identifying a suitably qualified and conveniently located practitioner of complementary medicine was often a time consuming and inefficient process involving searching many websites, where they were available, or making phone calls and writing letters. None of this being time cost-effective for a busy GP.

The NHSTA has worked in partnership with the leading CAM organisations (see below) in developing the Directory as an NHS healthcare resource, enabling you to identify suitably qualified practitioners practicing locally to your patients based on the categories set out in their Lordship's report.

The Directory is available in hard copy, free of charge (plus postage), or online free of charge at [www.nhsdirectory.org](http://www.nhsdirectory.org). (Please follow the simple registration procedure.)

Members of the Directory have all completed a thorough and detailed questionnaire of their experience, qualifications, fees, treatments offered, membership of professional organizations, willingness to treat NHS patients and proof of their insurance status.

The NHSTA has verified that they are all members in good standing of one or more of the recognised voluntary organisations controlling the therapy they practise. In the case of Chiropractors and Osteopaths, they are all verified members of the General Chiropractic Council (GCC) or General Osteopathic Council (GOsC). This unique and rapidly growing dedicated healthcare resource will, we believe, provide GPs who wish to utilise complementary therapy with a definitive source of suitable therapists.

Please contact us with any queries or comments you have. We would be glad to hear from you.

Yours sincerely

Dr. David Tod, O.B.E., M.B.Ch.B.(ED.), F.R.C.G.P., Dip.Crim.(Lon.)

Organisations consulted include:- The Department of Health, the Aromatherapy Organisation Council (AOC), the British Acupuncture Council (BAcC), the General Chiropractic Council (GCC), the British Chiropractic Association, the McTimoney Chiropractic Association, the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC), the International Society of Practising Aromatherapists (ISPA), the Association of Reflexologists (AOR), the International Federation of Professional Aromatherapists (IFPA), the Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine (RCHM), the British Association of Nutritional Therapists (BANT), the General Hypnotherapy Standards Council, the National Register of Hypnotherapists & Psychotherapists, the Bowen Therapists' European Register, the Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the UK Reiki Federation, the Crystal and Healing Federation, the Massage Therapy Institute of Great Britain, the Prince of Wales Foundation for Integrated Health, the British Osteopathic Association (BOA), the National Federation of Spiritual Healers (NFSH), the LCSP Register of Remedial Masseurs and Manipulative Therapists, the Chief Medical Officer for England, the Scottish Executive, the House of Lords amongst others.