

Core Criteria for Homeopathic Practice

Introduction

The Core Criteria are the general principles underpinning the professional practice of homeopathy. They describe all aspects of professional life and are descriptive of good professional practice.

Most homeopaths find that they are already fulfilling these criteria in practice, and knowledge of this framework validates the professional competence of the individual homeopath.

These criteria form the standard which will be used in assessing the final portfolio, the practice audit and more importantly, for the homeopath, to have as a benchmark for continual self-assessment and evaluation.

Purpose and Use of the Core Criteria

The Core Criteria make explicit the regular demonstration of an implicit body of knowledge.

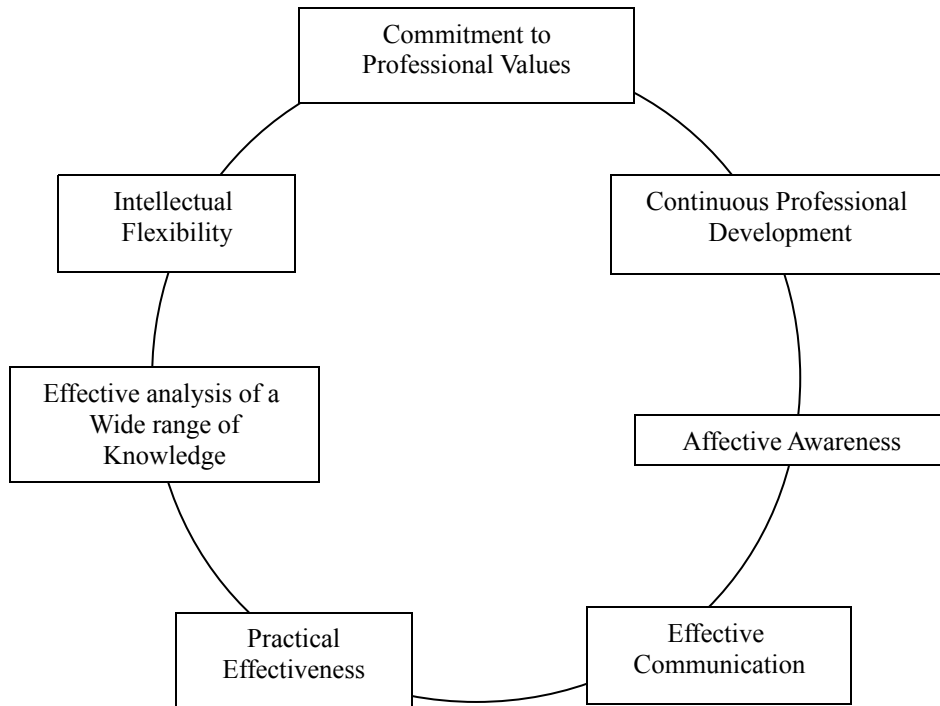
As you read through the Core Criteria, you will undoubtedly realise that you fulfil these criteria in your homeopathic practice all of the time, since the criteria were written as a description of what it is that practitioners do as a part of their daily working lives.

The Core Criteria can be used to help with your own Continuing Professional Development and should be used as a reference point in your initial CPD Plan. It is therefore strongly recommended that you become familiar with the Core Criteria in the early stages of the programme.

Towards the end of the ISH Registration Programme, candidates will compile a final portfolio of practice-based evidence with a supporting dissertation, for formal review, to demonstrate that they have fulfilled the core criteria for homeopathic practice. They will present a demonstration of their work, noting which performance criteria, and which core criterion they are to be evaluated against.

All Core Criteria should be represented within the overall body of work to be assessed.

Core Criteria for Homeopathic Practice



With thanks to Dr. Richard Winter and the ASSET team at East Anglia University

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CRITERION 1

COMMITMENT TO PROFESSIONAL PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

This involves self-awareness and a commitment to putting professional principles and values into practice. This criterion should underpin all your work as a Homeopath.

Practitioners can demonstrate:

- 1) An understanding of homeopathic philosophy and an ability to apply it in practice; this includes:
 - a) an awareness that health and disease are dynamic and meaningful
 - b) a reflective awareness of the individual and their familial, social, spiritual, cultural and economic context
 - c) clearly relating the approach to practice chosen in any situation, to a coherent set of homeopathic and ethical principles
- 2) Respect for patients' dignity, privacy, autonomy and right
- 3) Regard for the safety of the patient and of themselves at all times, both physically and psychologically
- 4) Employment of:
 - a) prescribing practices which are safe for both homeopath and patient, whatever the context
 - b) administrative practices which are safe for both homeopath and patient, whatever the context.

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CRITERION 2

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A commitment to reflection on practice and a deepening of professional understanding.

Practitioners can demonstrate that they:

- 1) Learn from others, including patients and colleagues, both through organised programmes and in everyday practice
- 2) Recognise that professional judgements are open to question
- 3) Engage in on-going self-evaluation, using cycles of reflection and action.

CRITERION 3

AFFECTIVE AWARENESS

The monitoring, understanding and effective management of the emotional state of oneself and others.

Practitioners can demonstrate:

- 1) An awareness of their own emotional state and responses, ensuring these are appropriate to the situation
- 2) An awareness of the emotional state and responses of patients, incorporating such awareness into their understanding and management of the patient
- 3) An awareness of the emotional state and responses of others (e.g. colleagues, other health workers, etc), in order to develop effective collaborative relationships
- 4) A willingness to take issues to supervision, or to work effectively on them in other ways, when this becomes necessary for the benefit of themselves or their patients.

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CRITERION 4

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Ability to communicate appropriately with a range of people.

Practitioners can demonstrate that they communicate:

- 1) Clearly, concisely and in a professional manner
- 2) In ways which are sensitive to the needs of the intended audience and varied according to purpose.

CRITERION 5

PRACTICAL EFFECTIVENESS

Decisiveness in making judgements in complex situations involving responsibility for patients or colleagues

Practitioners can demonstrate that they:

- 1) Work with confidence, independence and sensitivity
- 2) Can interpret information and evidence in terms of a clearly established purpose, and integrate new information as situations develop
- 3) Use:
 - a) Prescribing practices which are competent, and safe for both patient and homeopath
 - b) Administrative practices which are competent, and safe for both patient and homeopath
- 4) Can limit difficulties in case management and practice management;
- 5) Develop and nurture optimum effort in themselves, knowing how to conserve their own energy.

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CRITERION 6

EFFECTIVE SYNTHESIS OF A WIDE RANGE OF KNOWLEDGE

A willingness to add to their knowledge base and an ability to put knowledge and theory into practice

Practitioners can demonstrate that they:

- 1) Have a variety of ways of analysing cases so that an appropriate pathway to understanding can be found for an individual patient and for the patient's situation
- 2) Undertake systematic, critical evaluation of professional knowledge and research
- 3) Understand current legislation and policy as it relates to homeopathic practice
- 4) Can relate specific details of a situation to its wider context and to appropriate theoretical models
- 5) Acknowledge the value of, and use, research (including provings, audit and case studies) to critically evaluate theoretical models and to plan, implement and evaluate treatment strategies.

CRITERION 7

INTELLECTUAL FLEXIBILITY

General perceptiveness and insight together with a willingness to be open-minded about alternatives and to change one's practice management or treatment accordingly

Practitioners can demonstrate:

- 1) Capacity for careful, sensitive observation
- 2) Awareness and understanding of the inherent complexity of issues or situations
- 3) A clear relationship of the approach they have chosen in any situation to a coherent set of principles.