

Consultant 87

30 July 2012

To Whom it may concern

My name is [X] and I am a Registered Osteopath. I work as a sole practice in [X].

Along with the many Osteopaths that have contacted you in recent weeks to strongly complain at the attitude of BUPA regarding their new conditions of control and remuneration. I have been in practice for [X] years and have always pursued a treatment program that complies with the holistic concept of Osteopathy and the concepts of Andrew Taylor Still, the founding father of Osteopathy.

I have an hours treatment session and then complete paperwork after the patient has departed. I am endeavouring to reduce my treatment times to include paperwork within the hour. I do find this difficult because I look carefully at the whole body to ensure I give the correct diagnosis. Unlike other practitioners or disciplines I do not just look at the centre of pain or dysfunction and consider the body to be a system of units that make up the whole.

If I am to follow the proposed BUPA restrictions I will be unable to give my patient a proper diagnosis and an incomplete and unacceptable treatment.

BUPA's guidelines could result in poor treatment and possibly incorrect diagnosis.

As to payment I am aghast at the attitude of BUPA. At no time have I charged patients a cheap rate service. Currently I offer treatment to working patients at [£40-£50] per session. For those retired and unemployed I charge [£35-£45] and those in full time education [£25-£35]. I understand that BUPA charge £85.00 to their customers for an Osteopath but wish to reimburse Osteopaths for a treatment session £30-£35 lasting 30 minutes. This is morally wrong, grossly unfair, when administration is also required as part of the payment package.

Comparison to other medical practitioners is futile but the discrepancies that exist are beyond belief.

I hope this short note gives an idea of an Osteopaths dismay at such unfair proposals