



WHO BENCHMARKS FOR TRAINING IN CHIROPRACTIC EXPERT WORKING GROUP: CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Introduction and background

The World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC) has been a non-state actor in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) since 1997.

In 2005, WHO published the *Guidelines for Basic Training and Safety in Chiropractic*. This document has been used to help inform the training of chiropractors around the world as well as serving as a reference point for contraindications and safety issues relating to the work of chiropractors.

Evolving scientific evidence, contemporary pedagogy and changes in the way that health professions training is delivered have meant that the original guidelines document is now considerably out of date.

In resolution WHA 62.13 concerning traditional medicine, the World Health Assembly urged Member States to consider, where appropriate, establishing systems for the qualification, accreditation or licensing of traditional medicine practitioners. It further encouraged them to assist in upgrading practitioners' knowledge and skill in collaboration with relevant health providers on the basis of traditions and skills of indigenous peoples and communities.

TCM and integrated health services

In response to this resolution, a WHO Strategy on Traditional and Complementary Medicine was launched, covering the period 2014-2023. One of the objectives of the strategy is to strengthen the quality, safety and effectiveness of traditional and complementary medicine.

While the status of chiropractic as a health profession varies around the world, the WFC, as a non-state actor in official relations, reports to the WHO Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine Department, which in turn is housed within the Department of Integrated Health Services (IHS).

The WHO IHS Department supports countries in moving their health systems towards universal health coverage through the provision of equitable access to quality health services that are integrated, safe and people-centered throughout the health continuum.

Benchmarks for Training in Chiropractic

Earlier this year, the WFC signed an agreement with WHO to fund a project to update the 2005 *Guidelines* document. This has been made possible through generous donations to the WFC by key stakeholders and WFC member associations.

The current model now used by WHO is to develop Benchmarks. The creation of a new *Benchmarks for Training in Chiropractic* will provide an updated reference that will benefit policymakers, health workers, education providers and the public in general. It will form a vital component of WHO's Benchmark series targeting key modalities and contributing to the establishment of a reference toolkit for countries.

Project objectives

The objectives of the Benchmarks project are twofold: firstly, to promote the quality and safety of traditional and complementary medicine and consumer protection by supporting WHO in supporting WHO in

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developing benchmarks for training in chiropractic; secondly, to support the principles of UN Sustainable Development Goal Three (SDG3) and the WHO General Program of Work 13 (Output 1.1.1) and Universal Health Coverage.

The WHO *Benchmarks for Training in Chiropractic* project is set to run from 2022-2024. During this time, the working group will meet in person and/or virtually.

The WFC is the donor organization in respect of this project. The final Benchmarks document will be a publication of the World Health Organization and all monitoring and implementation of the project will be the responsibility of WHO. It is WHO that will take final decisions in respect of who will serve on its authorship, working group, and reviewer teams.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

In all activities, the WFC will act in accordance with its policy on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (2020).

Tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment

The WFC and WHO have a zero tolerance approach towards inaction in tackling sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). This means WHO and its implementing partners will take all reasonable steps to prevent SEA by both its employees and any implementing partner and respond appropriately when reports of SEA arise, in accordance with their regulations, rules, policies and procedures.

Call for expressions of interest: working group

In order to provide support to WHO, the WFC has been invited to propose experts to serve as part of a working group to provide expert opinion, evidence and advice relative to the training of

chiropractors around the world.

We are therefore seeking expressions of interest to serve on the WHO Working Group during the development of this Benchmark document.

Applicants must have demonstrable expertise and experience in the training of chiropractors. They will ideally possess a Doctorate or Masters Degree in Education, demonstrate a proven track record in educational leadership and research related to the chiropractic profession, and be familiar with current developments related to the education and training of health care professionals.

No honoraria will be payable but reasonable expenses will be covered.

All expressions of interest must comprise a covering letter describing a willingness to be considered by WHO for the benchmarks working group. This must be accompanied by a full CV.

All expressions of interest must be submitted electronically to WFC Secretary-General, Richard Brown at rbrown@wfc.org.

The deadline for submission of expressions of interest is 00:59 Eastern Time, Friday, September 2, 2022.

References

World Health Organization. WHO Guidelines on Basic Training and Safety in Chiropractic (2005).

WHO Integrated Health Services

UN Sustainable Development Goal 3

WHO General Programme of Work 13

WHO Sexual exploitation and abuse prevention and response

World Federation of Chiropractic. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy (2020)

The deadline for submission of expressions of interest to serve on the WHO Benchmarks for Training in Chiropractic working group is 00:59 Eastern Time on Friday, September 2, 2022