

Dear Patient,

Earlier this year you were kind enough to spend time participating in an interview. In total, 22 patients agreed to be interviewed for this project as we tried to find out your views on collecting data in osteopathic practice, and what you thought about three questionnaires. We also interviewed osteopaths as part of the project.

In summary, this is what you told us:

- You were broadly in favour of the idea of practice-based data collection, and felt that collecting data would provide evidence for the profession to develop;
- You were happy to complete questionnaires either at home or in the practice depending on what was the most convenient and what access you have to technology devices;
- Some participants mentioned concern that some patients might be excluded if paper data collection was not available;
- There were differing opinions on the questionnaires discussed but you felt it was important to include options which had statements as well as numerical scales;
- You mentioned that any information available about practice-based data collection should be quite brief and specific. Most of you were interested in the types of symptom areas treated in practices;
- You stated that you would not want your data shared outside of the research team, and it should not be made available to any commercial organisation;
- You mentioned that there were key things associated with your symptoms that the PROMs did not collect, and you did not want PROM data collection to interfere with the consultation process.

What is happening with the project now?

In July, 2014 we started to pilot the app. This took place in the training colleges (Osteopathic Educational Institutions) and in private practices throughout the UK. The pilot process has focussed solely on spinal pain to allow us to examine a small number of PROMs and assess how the system works in practice. Feedback from both patients and osteopaths has allowed us to refine the system and make it easy to use. At the end of this year, the pilot stage will finish and we will start to examine the data collected. This will help us to look at three key features:

- Feasibility – is the system acceptable to patients, and are they willing to use it;
- Responsiveness – do the PROMs being used detect change in patients' symptoms;
- Test-retest reliability – do PROMs which have been developed for paper completion work the same when used electronically.

Once we have further information available, we will contact you again with another update on progress. In the meantime, thank you once again for making such a valuable contribution to this project.