



McTimoney Chiropractic Association

Dear Graduate,

The 'PRT' postgraduate training programme - why bother?

Your first year in practice is likely to be the most exciting but also the most challenging of your career. You may be financially stretched, moving to a new town and away from family and friends. Inexperience may lead to complaints being levelled against you and you may face many other challenges, both personal and professional.

The PRT programme provides a support network of Trainers and Tutors and, most importantly, other local graduates. PRT seminars provide a chance to discuss common problems and learn how others have dealt with similar experiences. The PRT programme is not about teaching you how to practise. It is about helping you to discover what you need to know for yourself. It helps bridge the gap between undergraduate college and independent practise, enabling your competence to develop into clinical proficiency.

The College of Chiropractors provides the PRT programme for provisional members of the BCA, MCA and UCA. Completion of the College's PRT programme by new graduates is a requirement for full membership of these associations and for the College itself.

The College is a registered charity and runs the PRT on a non-profit basis. Indeed, the cost to graduates is heavily subsidised through the significant contribution made by Trainers and Tutors who are Members and Fellows of the College and give freely of their time to support the College's Provisional Members through the programme. Without this contribution, the costs, which include provision of the regional PRT meetings and all aspects of administering the programme including training the Trainers and Tutors, provision of documentation, staff costs, ongoing annual monitoring, governance and overheads, would quadruple. The College is committed to minimising the expense to graduates and accepts monthly subscription payments to lessen the impact.

The PRT programme is continuously reviewed, drawing on feedback collected from participants at regular intervals throughout the programme. You are encouraged to provide constructive feedback at every opportunity and should contact the College directly at any time if you are experiencing problems or have suggestions for improvement. Regular contact with the College is positively encouraged.

The requirements of the programme have evolved over many years and are not simply a hoop-jumping exercise. As well as being valuable aspects of lifelong learning, some requirements such as reflection, professional development planning and learning in cycles are requirements of statutory CPD, satisfied by documenting these aspects of your PRT programme according to GCC requirements. Similarly, the requirement to undertake audit is expected to satisfy the GCC's Code of Practice and Standards of Proficiency in terms of the need to regularly review your practice.

The College and your Association recognise that learning requirements among graduates vary, and the spirit in which the PRT regional meetings should run is one where those with pre-chiropractic experience of business or other professions, for example, share this experience with their Tutor and peers, fostering the development of a learning culture. Everybody has something to contribute and the PRT should be all about contributing to as well as benefiting from the support provided.

The College and your Association will continue to work together in cooperation to ensure the best possible PRT experience for chiropractic graduates within the resources available. The programme will continue to evolve and improve, and as a member of the College of Chiropractors and your Association, we hope that you will want to play your part in this process.

Yours faithfully

Executive Director
British Chiropractic
Association

Chief Executive
The College of
Chiropractors

Chair
McTimoney Chiropractic
Association

President
United Chiropractic
Association