

What's new this time?

- Question for candidates
- References
- New homeopathy video

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The following question to put to candidates in the Parliamentary elections has been written by supporters of H:MC21. We urge you to use it in hustings or letters to local candidates. We nearly have agreement on sending it to the leaders of the main parties as a joint initiative with other bodies representing homeopaths.

Question for Parliamentary Candidates

Given that surveys of homeopathic treatment show that 70% of patients see improvement with homeopathy, do you agree that people have a right to a say in what medical treatment they receive, and that the NHS should have a pluralistic approach to healthcare, including alternatives such as homeopathy, and what action will you take to ensure that CAM including Homeopathy will continue to receive sufficient funding from the NHS and PCTs?

References

1. A study of 6,544 consecutive patients at the NHS Bristol Homeopathic Hospital: "Of the patients 70.7% reported positive health changes, with 50.7% recording their improvement as better or much better.

From: Spence DS, Thompson EA, Barron SJ, 'Homeopathic Treatment for Chronic Disease: A 6-Year, University-Hospital Outpatient Observational Study', *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*, 2005, 11:793-798.

2. A study of 713 patients in the NHS in Northern Ireland: "80% of patients recorded an improvement in the severity of their main symptom, with 73% recording an improvement in their level of activity associated with their main symptom."

From: Donal McDade, *Evaluation [of a] Complementary and Alternative Medicines Pilot Project* (London: Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2008), available at Get Well UK website at <<http://www.getwelluk.com/>>, accessed 27 April 2009; full report at <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/final_report_from_smr_on_the_cam_pilot_project_-_may_2008.pdf>.

3. A survey of 50 patients in an NHS practice in Cirencester. Of the 35 who responded “a significant number (74%) of patients reported a positive outcome from their treatment.”

From: Dr. Adrian Hunnisett, *Homeopathy Service Survey* (Cirencester: The Park Surgery, 2005).

4. A study of 1097 patients in Norway. Of the 654 who completed the follow-up questionnaire, “The main complaint improved by at least 10 mm on the VAS [visual analogue scale] for 71%.”

From: Steinsbekk and R. Lütke, ‘Patients’ assessments of the effectiveness of homeopathic care in Norway: A prospective observational multicentre outcome study’, *Homeopathy*, 94 (2005), 10-16, available at:

<http://www.scopus.com/record/display.url?eid=2-s2.0-11844297403&origin=inward&txGid=79ie_u0p0cPFoTLkdzTDA2p%3a2>, accessed 14 February 2010.

5. A multi-centre study of 3,981 patients in Germany and Switzerland: “Disease severity and quality of life demonstrated marked and sustained improvements following homeopathic treatment period. Our findings indicate that homeopathic medical therapy may play a beneficial role in the long-term care of patients with chronic diseases.”

From: Claudia M. Witt, Rainer Lütke, Nils Mengler, and Stefan N. Willich, ‘How healthy are chronically ill patients after eight years of homeopathic treatment? – Results from a long term observational study’, *BMC Public Health*, 8 (2008), 413, available at

<<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2630323/>>.

New homeopathy video on YouTube

Carol Boyce has turned *Halloween Science* into a wonderful video poking fun at the leading opponents of homeopathy in the UK. Don't miss 'The Plural of Denial Is Not Science' at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHi1UjPvhXQ&feature=player_embedded

The H:MC21 team