



SWITZERLAND

Osteopathy

Osteopathy is established separate from the profession of medicine, and is therefore, applicable to the non-physician osteopath. Osteopathy has then been established as a profession under Article 16 along with other complementary professions including homeopathy, acupuncture, and traditional Chinese medicine. There is a board established that oversees the area of complementary health practise, which is separate from the medical board. Each Canton establishes the process for non-physician osteopaths to become approved to practise as well as describe the scope of practise and develop its own specific guidelines. Some Cantons have not regulated osteopathy yet, but there are plans to establish a national register for osteopaths in the future.

Statutes/Regulations:

The following link identifies all the cantons that reference osteopathy in Switzerland. Each Canton is listed separately, and is in their native language of French or German: [*Swiss Cantons Referring to Osteopathy*](#).

For a description of each Canton's laws translated from French to English, please click [here](#). Please note, there are other cantons in German, but we do not have translations in English at this time.

Schools of Osteopathy:

In Switzerland, osteopathy is a licensed profession but is not considered an academic program. This means that osteopathy is not offered at any state Swiss universities. There are private schools that are working toward accreditation from the Centre of Accreditation and Quality Assurance of the Swiss Universities (OAQ). The accreditation system operates on a voluntary basis. In accordance with the Cooperation Agreement between the Federal Government and the University Cantons, accreditation may be granted to public or private institutions or programs at university level. The procedure consists of three stages: a self-evaluation carried out by the university unit is followed by an external appraisal by an independent group of experts.

Organisations/Associations:

Swiss Register of Osteopaths

Ch. de la Venoge 7

Ch 1025 St. Sulpice

Tel: 021/697 54 54

Fax: 021/697 54 55

Email: secretary@osteopathy.ch

Website: www.osteopathy.ch