



BELGIUM

Summary

Osteopathic Medicine is defined as a complete system of medical care with a philosophy that combines the needs of the patient with the current practise of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics. Osteopathic Medicine emphasizes the interrelationship between structure and function, and has an appreciation of the body's ability to heal itself. An osteopathic physician is a person with full, unlimited practise rights who has achieved the nationally recognized academic and professional standards within the United States to diagnose, and provide treatment based upon the principles of osteopathic philosophy. Individual countries establish the national, academic, and professional standards for osteopathic physicians practising within their countries.

An osteopath is a non-physician practitioner who has achieved the nationally recognized academic and professional standards within her or his country to practise osteopathic manipulative treatment. Individual countries establish the national academic, and professional standards for osteopaths practising within their countries.

Osteopathic Medicine

No recognition of U.S. educated D.O.s in Belgium.

Osteopathy

The Belgian parliament passed a law legalizing the practise of osteopathy in 1999, but osteopathy is still not regulated. Belgium has met the requirements for Affiliate Membership in the American Academy of Osteopathy. Because of the regional system of government in Belgium, practise rights may vary depending on whether you practise in Wallonia or Flanders.

Statutes/Regulations:

[*Minister of Social Affairs, Public Health, and the Environment F. 99 – 1947*](#) (French)

[*Minister of Social Affairs, Public Health, and the Environment F. 99 – 1947*](#) (English)

Contacts:

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Schools of Osteopathy:

Degrees: Eur.ost.D.O.

Sutherland College of Osteopathic Medicine asbl

Namur (SCOM)

College Sutherland Antwerpen (C.S.)

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Organisations/Associations:

Académie d'Ostéopathie de Belgique (AOB)

Belgian Register of Osteopaths

An association set up to register qualified osteopaths, and monitor professional standards.
Membership must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Graduate of a full-time school (5000 hours)
- 2) Be a physiotherapist or MD with modules comprising 1500 hours.

Contact:

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Website: <http://www.iao.be>

GNRPO (Groupement Nationale Représentatif des Professionnels de l'Ostéopathie/Groepering Nationaal en Representatief voor de Professionele Osteopaten).

There are five representative organisations recognised by the State and accredited by the Ministry of Health, coming under this umbrella body. For further information visit www.gnrpo.be

International Federation for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine (FIMM)

Website: www.fimm-online.org