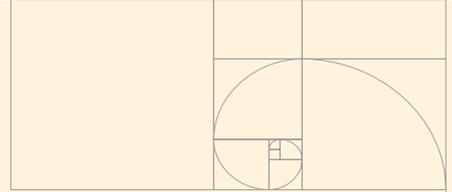


Health Heritage Innovations

Category: Practice

Stage: Scaling

Country (region): UK (Europe)



Neonatal osteopathic care

Integrating neonatal osteopathic care with global implementation protocols to improve health and economic outcomes

This innovation represents the first systematic integration of evidence-based neonatal osteopathic care with global implementation protocols. It uniquely synthesizes findings from randomized controlled trials and a systematic review into a comprehensive, scalable framework. This framework can be adapted to diverse health care systems, ranging from high-resource neonatal intensive care units to basic facilities in lower-resource settings.

The framework delivers exceptional health and economic outcomes. A multicentre trial involving 695 infants demonstrated a clinically significant 3.9-day reduction in hospital length of stay, generating cost savings of €2078 per infant (adjusted for inflation from 2013). Notably, premature infants experienced a remarkable 68% reduction in prolonged admissions exceeding 28 days. Additional benefits included significantly improved physiological stability alongside substantially reduced gastrointestinal complications.

The evidence base for our innovation is exceptionally robust, with no serious complications documented across diverse populations of paediatric patients including premature infants and those in high-risk oncology settings. In addition, the framework targets proven therapeutic mechanisms, including those that regulate the autonomic nervous system.

As a WHO-classified Traditional Medicine intervention, osteopathic care is already delivered by approximately 258 340 trained professionals across 46 countries, providing a ready-to-scale global infrastructure. Our approach requires minimal additional resources beyond training existing practitioners. This makes it immediately implementable in resource-constrained settings alongside maintaining rigorous evidence standards and ensuring patient safety.



Innovator:
International team led by
Dr Ana Paula A. Ferreira

Centre for Osteopathic
Research and Leadership,
Health Sciences University,
UCO School of Osteopathy

Contact:
AnaPaula.Ferreira@hsu.ac.uk

Finalist's
webpage



Disclaimer: WHO played no role in the development of this innovation.