



## CIRCULAR NO (DHP/2026/33)

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>From</b>    | Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP) - Ministry of Public Health                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>To</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All healthcare practitioners in the governmental, semi-governmental, and private sectors</li><li>All healthcare facilities in the governmental, semi-governmental, and private sectors</li></ul> |
| <b>Subject</b> | Adoption of a Time-Bound Transitional Mechanism for Regulating and Licensing Hijama (Cupping) Practitioners                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Date</b>    | 06/07/2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

### Greetings from the Department of Healthcare Professions.

As part of the Department of Healthcare Professions' (DHP) commitment to regulate the practice of Hijama (cupping) and to enhance the safety and quality of the services provided, and pursuant to the decision of the Permanent Licensing Committee issued at its Meeting No. (6) of 2026 held on 06/04/2026, DHP has approved a time-bound transitional mechanism for regulating and licensing Hijama (cupping) practitioners who do not have a medical background, or who hold training courses and certificates that are not included in the approved list. This mechanism is intended to ensure that the minimum requirements for occupational safety and infection prevention and control are met prior to the issuance of a license.

### This mechanism aims to achieve the following:

- To include all categories of Hijama (cupping) practitioners currently in the State within a unified regulatory framework, in accordance with specified standards and conditions.
- To enhance the safety of practice and improve the quality of services provided in the field of Hijama (cupping).
- To reduce the health risks, injuries, and infections associated with the practice.

This mechanism shall be implemented in accordance with the regulatory requirements and procedures, licensing steps, timeline, and implementation provisions set out in the approved mechanism attached to this circular.

**Note:** This circular is effective from the date of issuance.

For further information, kindly contact DHP Registration: [dhpregristration@moph.gov.qa](mailto:dhpregristration@moph.gov.qa)

**Thank you for your cooperation,**

**Department of Healthcare Professions.**



# Mechanism for Regulating and Licensing Cupping Practitioners

Transition Pathway

## First

## Purpose

This mechanism aims to establish a time-bound transition pathway for licensing cupping practitioners who do not have a medical background or who hold courses and certificates not included on the approved list. This mechanism is intended to ensure that the minimum requirements for occupational safety and infection prevention and control are met before a license is issued.

### **This mechanism aims to achieve the following:**

- To include all categories of Hijama (cupping) practitioners currently in the State within a unified regulatory framework, in accordance with specified standards and conditions.
- To enhance the safety of practice and improve the quality of services provided in the field of Hijama (cupping).
- To reduce the health risks, injuries, and infections associated with the practice.

## Second

## Target Group

This mechanism targets cupping practitioners who do not have a medical background or who hold courses and certificates not included on the approved list, including:

- Qataris.
- Children of Qatari women.
- Residents who have spent three (3) years or more in Qatar.
- GCC nationals residing in the State of Qatar.

All applicants and relevant health facilities are required to adhere to the procedures outlined in this mechanism during the transition period. Completing these procedures is necessary for obtaining a license. Applications and documents will be reviewed, and those who meet the requirements will be directed to complete the approved procedures.

### **Approved Standards for Courses and Certificates**

Completion of a training program in cupping is required at a centre accredited by the Department of Healthcare Professions.

In addition to the current list, any course can be accepted, provided it meets the following criteria and conditions:

- Issued by authorised bodies in the country of issue.
- The duration of the training should be no less than 48 hours, including both theoretical and practical components.
- A logbook should be attached, demonstrating the completion of 25 or more cases under supervision.

**Note:** Certificates issued from outside the State of Qatar are subject to verification procedures by companies accredited by the Department of Healthcare Professions. This process will take place only after the applicants' eligibility and the verification of their certificates have been confirmed.

## Centres Accredited by the Department of Healthcare Professions

| Accredited Centres | Country                                                                                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| State of Qatar     | Tabibi Polyclinic                                                                                   |
| Saudi Arabia       | The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine                                      |
| United Kingdom     | Institute of Clinically Applied Hijama Therapy<br>British Cupping Society<br>TOCCA<br>Hijama Nation |

### Fourth

### Licensing Steps (Transition Pathway)

1. Receiving applications from the target group starting from the issuance date of the circular.
2. Registration within a period of (6) months from the start date of the application through the electronic registration and licensing portal [DHP Login](#).
3. Assessing the qualifications of unlicensed practitioners and their training courses in cupping, including hands-on training, while ensuring compliance with established standards.
4. Completing the theoretical exam approved by the administration.
5. The expert committee will conduct technical interviews with the candidates who have successfully passed the theoretical exam, to evaluate their professional competence, knowledge and practical skills.
6. Applicants who do not pass the exam will be permitted one additional opportunity to meet the assessment requirements, provided this is completed within a period not exceeding six months.
7. The professional license will be issued upon the successful completion of all requirements.
8. Limiting cupping practice to licensed health facilities only, including health agencies.
9. The Department of Health Specialities will conduct field inspections and audit visits to ensure compliance with professional standards, safety protocols, and infection control measures.

## Fifth

## Timeframe

The total duration for the implementation process is 18 months, structured into three distinct stages as outlined below:

| Stages    | Duration | Content                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Satge I   | 6 months | Identifying cupping practitioners and evaluating their professional qualifications. This includes administering a theoretical examination and interviewing candidates who meet the requirements established in the initial assessment. |
| Stage II  | 6 months | Offering an additional opportunity for individuals to retake the exam in accordance with the established regulations.                                                                                                                  |
| Stage III | 6 months | Implementing awareness campaigns to enhance compliance with regulatory requirements and safe practices.                                                                                                                                |

## Sixth

## Executive Provisions

- The applicant is required to provide accurate and up-to-date information and to fulfil any additional requirements set by the relevant authority during the evaluation process.
- Healthcare facilities shall not allow any cupping practitioners to operate until a proper license has been issued. Additionally, their practices must comply with the approved policies pertaining to infection control and patient safety.
- The practice is subject to ongoing monitoring and inspection, with regulatory actions taken in response to violations, in accordance with the relevant regulations.