

CIRCULAR NO (DHP/2026/04)

From	Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP) / Ministry of Public Health
To	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All licensed healthcare Practitioners in QatarAll licensed healthcare facilities
Subject	Update of the Regulatory Framework for Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine and the Addition of New Scopes to the List of Health Professions.
Date	26/02/2026

Greetings from the Department of Healthcare Professions

In our ongoing efforts to align with the best regulatory practices regionally and internationally, complying with global regulatory trends, and based on the decision of the Permanent Licensing Committee, the Department of Healthcare Professions announces the update of the regulatory framework for Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine (TCIM). The updated framework includes currently approved practices, in addition to the introduction of new scopes within the list of health professions, with the adoption of scopes of practice and the registration and licensing requirements for each field.

The updated regulatory framework, outlining the scopes regulated by the Department of Healthcare Professions, is hereby attached for reference and compliance.

Note: Any previous instructions or provisions that conflict with this circular are cancelled.

For further information, contact: dhpregistration@moph.gov.qa

Thank you for your cooperation

Department of Healthcare Professions
Ministry of Public Health



Traditional, Complementary & Integrative Medicine

Registration and Licensure Standards and Scope of Practice

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1. Introduction

Traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine (TCIM) encompasses a broad range of holistic healing approaches and therapies deeply rooted in ancient health systems and cultural traditions from around the world. TCIM may be utilized as complementary practices to support conventional medical treatments or as part of an integrated approach that combines evidence-based complementary therapies with modern medicine. It includes practices such as Traditional Chinese Medicine, Ayurveda, Traditional Korean Medicine, Reflexology, and Hijama (cupping therapy), among others.

Complementary medicine refers to traditional and natural therapies used alongside conventional medical treatments to enhance overall patient care and well-being. These practices aim to support the body's natural healing processes, alleviate symptoms, reduce side effects of conventional treatments, and improve quality of life. Complementary approaches may include herbal medicine, acupuncture, nutritional and lifestyle counseling, massage therapy, aromatherapy, and mindfulness-based techniques. They are often used to promote balance, prevent illness, and address chronic conditions by focusing on the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—rather than the disease alone.

Integrative medicine combines evidence-based complementary therapies with contemporary medical practices, providing a personalized, patient-centered approach that addresses the physical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of health. It emphasizes safety, scientific validation, and collaboration between conventional and complementary healthcare providers.

The **Department of Healthcare Professions (DHP)** recognizes the importance of incorporating well-researched traditional and complementary practices from around the world into the healthcare system. Its goal is to promote the safe and effective integration of proven traditional methods with Western medicine to improve treatment outcomes, enhance patient satisfaction, and support overall well-being. DHP is responsible for regulating all aspects of traditional medicine in Qatar, including the registration and licensing of healthcare practitioners, defining the practice settings, and monitoring practitioners' compliance with the regulatory framework where TCIM is practiced.

2. Definitions

No.	Term	Definition
1.1	Acupuncture	An ancient medical technique that involves the insertion of fine needles into specific points located along meridians, or energy pathways, in the body. This practice aims to restore the body's energy balance and facilitate healing. The existence of these meridians has been supported by electronic documentation.
1.2	Ayurveda	It is an ancient holistic healing system from India known as “the science of life,” focusing on balancing the body, mind, and spirit to promote health and prevent disease. It uses personalized treatments like herbs, nutrition, massages, cleansing therapies, and yoga to support the body's natural healing.
1.3	Chiropractor	A system of therapy specializing in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disorders of the neuro-musculoskeletal system and their impact on overall health and wellbeing. This approach places a strong emphasis on manual techniques, involving the manipulation or adjustment of the spinal segments and other joints in the body.
1.4	Conventional Medicine	Conventional medicine, also referred to as Western or allopathic medicine, is a recognized healthcare discipline that employs scientifically validated methods for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases. Practitioners use evidence-based interventions, including pharmaceuticals, surgery, and other clinically approved therapies, following standardized protocols and guidelines.
1.5	Herbal Medicine	Herbal medicine refers to the use of plants or plant-based substances for the prevention, treatment, or management of diseases and the promotion of overall health. It involves preparing and using herbs in various forms—such as teas, extracts, capsules, or topical applications—based on traditional knowledge and, increasingly, scientific evidence.
1.6	Hijama (Cupping therapy)	Hijama (Cupping Therapy) is a complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) practice that involves applying suction cups to the skin, with or without controlled skin incisions, to promote circulation, relieve pain, remove perceived toxins and support the body's natural healing processes. The suction is produced through thermal methods, such as fire, or mechanical means including manual or electric pumps.

1.7	Homeopathy	Homeopathy is a system of healthcare based on the principle of “like cures like,” in which highly diluted substances are used to stimulate the body’s natural healing processes. Homeopathic practitioners assess the patient’s physical, mental, and emotional symptoms to select individualized remedies, aiming to restore balance, promote health, and support the body’s self-healing mechanisms.
1.8	Integrative Medicine	Integrative medicine combines treatments from Conventional medicine and Traditional Medicine that have high-quality evidence supporting their safety and effectiveness to promote physical, psychological, social, and spiritual wellbeing.
1.9	Medical Massage Therapist	Medical Massage Therapy is a therapeutic practice that uses specialized manual techniques to manipulate soft tissues such as muscles, tendons, ligaments, and joints. It aims to relieve pain, reduce muscle tension, promote healing of injuries, alleviate stress, and enhance overall physical and mental well-being.
1.10	Moxibustion	Moxibustion is a commonly used technique in acupuncture, which involves burning Mugwort (Artemisia plant) to warm certain Meridian points on the body to prevent diseases and promote wellbeing.
1.11	Naturopathy	Naturopathy is a system of healthcare that emphasizes the body’s inherent ability to heal and maintain itself through the use of natural therapies. It integrates traditional healing wisdom with evidence-based natural medicine to prevent and manage diseases, promote wellness, and restore balance. Naturopathic practice focuses on identifying and addressing the root causes of illness rather than merely alleviating symptoms.
1.12	Osteopathy	Osteopathy is a healthcare discipline that emphasizes the interrelationship between the body’s structure and function. It involves assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of health conditions through manual techniques aimed at improving mobility, relieving pain, enhancing circulation, and supporting the body’s natural healing processes. Osteopathic practitioners apply evidence-based manual therapy within a holistic framework to promote overall health and well-being.

1.13	Oriental Medicine	Oriental Medicine is a recognized discipline within Traditional and Complementary Medicine that focuses on the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of health conditions using principles and therapies derived from traditional East Asian medical systems. Practitioners apply evidence-based and culturally established methods such as acupuncture, herbal medicine, moxibustion, cupping, and dietary therapy to restore balance, promote wellness, and support the body's natural healing processes
1.14	Reflexology	Is a complementary therapy involving pressure applied to specific points on the hands, feet, or ears, with the belief that these points correspond to different organs and systems in the body. The practice aims to promote relaxation and balance, and to stimulate the body's own healing processes by unblocking energy pathways and improving circulation.
1.15	Traditional Medicine (TM)	Traditional medicine encompasses codified or non-codified systems of healthcare and well-being rooted in diverse historical and cultural backgrounds that predate biomedicine. It evolves with scientific understanding and emphasizes nature-based remedies and holistic, personalized approaches to restore balance.
1.16	Complementary Medicine (CM)	Complementary medicine refers to healthcare practices not originating from a country's own tradition or mainstream medical system. Often used interchangeably with "alternative medicine", evidence-informed CM is intended to support conventional medicine and address health needs more comprehensively.
1.17	Traditional Chinese Medicine	Traditional Chinese Medicine is a therapeutic system that diagnoses, treats, and prevents illness by assessing the balance and flow of Qi (vital energy) within the body. TCM practitioners use techniques such as acupuncture, herbal medicine, cupping, moxibustion, massage, therapeutic exercises, and lifestyle guidance to restore harmony, promote health, and support the body's natural healing processes.
1.18	Traditional Korean Medicine	Traditional Korean Medicine is a therapeutic system that focuses on diagnosing, preventing, and treating diseases by restoring balance in the body's energy and organ systems. TKM practitioners use methods such as Sasang constitutional medicine, Saam acupuncture, cupping, moxibustion, herbal medicine, manual therapies, meditation, and lifestyle counseling to promote overall health, harmony, and wellbeing.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to:

- Define the scope of practice for Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) practitioners
- Outline the professional boundaries, roles, and responsibilities of each TCIM discipline to ensure safe, ethical, and competent practice within the healthcare system.
- Serve as an official reference for practitioners, stakeholders, healthcare institutions, and regulatory authorities in defining the licensing standards for TCIM practices.
- Guide educational and training institutions in aligning curricula and competency development.
- Provide a framework for ongoing professional regulation, performance monitoring and policy development.

4. LIST OF SCOPES

These scopes of practice apply to all DHP-licensed healthcare professionals providing Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine services in the State of Qatar, including but not limited to:

1. [Acupuncture Practitioner](#)
2. [Ayurveda Practitioner](#)
3. [Ayurveda Technician](#)
4. [Chiropractor Practitioner](#)
5. [Herbal/ Oriental Medicine Practitioner](#)
6. [Hijama \(Cupping\)](#)
7. [Homeopathy](#)
8. [Medical Massage Therapist](#)
9. [Naturopathy](#)
10. [Osteopathy](#)
11. [Reflexology](#)
12. [Traditional Chinese Medicine \(TCM\) Practitioners](#)
13. [Traditional Korean Medicine Practitioners](#)

5. PRACTICE SETTING

DHP-registered healthcare professionals may practice in a range of healthcare settings offering Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine services, including:

1. General Hospital
2. Specialized Clinics
3. Rehabilitation Centers
4. Medical Centers
5. Primary Healthcare Centers
6. Home Visit Services

6. PRACTICE PRINCIPLES

The practice principles delineate the essential competencies—knowledge, skills, behaviors, and professional attributes—that licensed TCIM practitioners must demonstrate to practice safely, effectively, and ethically under DHP regulation in the State of Qatar.

Domain 1 – Professional & Ethical Practice

- TCIM practitioners must operate within legal and medical frameworks, adhering to standards of care.
- Treat patients with respect, compassion, and cultural sensitivity.
- Maintain transparent, hygienic, and ethical practices.
- Avoid making claims of curing specific diseases.
- Use only approved professional titles, refrain from surgeries or midwifery.
- Act in the patient's best interest and avoid conflicts of interest or accepting gifts.
- Uphold integrity, comply with DHP policies and follow national laws.
- Protect vulnerable groups and adhere to child protection regulations.
- Follow legal guidelines for advertising and selling medical products.
- No spiritual practice is permitted.

Domain 2 – Clinical Practice / Patient Centered Care

- Deliver healthcare services consistent with one's qualifications and scope.
- Prioritize patient health and well-being while maintaining a therapeutic practitioner–patient relationship.
- Support patients in understanding the benefits and risks of other treatments, including conventional diagnostics and screening.
- Diagnose within the principles of one's specialty and refer cases beyond scope for medical advice.
- Provide emergency assistance within training and circumstances..
- Refrain from treating acute or critical cases, performing surgery, injections, or blood withdrawal (except cupping). Do not treat communicable diseases.
- Identify notifiable diseases and refer patients to emergencies or medical care.
- Recommend only over-the-counter registered CM pharmaceutical products within scope.
- Dispense remedies only from the MoPH (Pharmacy & Drug Control Department -approved product list.
- Do not alter or adjust prescribed medications; this remains the physician's responsibility.
- Communicate clearly and comprehensively with patients, including education and post-procedure guidance.
- Collaborate with other healthcare professionals in patient management and care planning.
- Respect patients' rights to make informed healthcare decisions.
- Adhere to infection control standards, including proper hand hygiene and waste disposal.
- Maintain patient confidentiality in compliance with legal requirements.
- Follow documentation standards, keep secure, accurate, and up-to-date patient records.

7. SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR TCIM MODALITIES

7.1 ACUPUNCTURE PRACTITIONER:

Acupuncture is the ancient practice of inserting fine needles into carefully selected points located along meridians, or energy pathways, in the body. It is thought that adjusting the body's life healing will occur.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Category	Qualification Requirement	Experience Requirement
Acupuncture practitioner	Bachelor of Medicine (Acupuncture) with a minimum of 5 years full time duration, including internship.	2 years
	Accredited Acupuncture program of minimum two years full time or the part time equivalent with not less than 2500 teaching hours.	3 years
Acupuncture Practitioner without a health/medical background.	An academic program of no less than 2500 theoretical and practical hours of study.	2 years
Physicians/ Dentists limited to Acupuncture. (Practitioners with a Physician/Dentist background)	An academic program of no less than 500 theoretical, 500 clinical and 500 supervised practical hours.	Not required
Licensed Physicians/ Dentists	An academic program of no less than 200 theoretical and practical hours of study.	Not required
Other Healthcare Practitioners practicing Acupuncture within his/ her scope	An academic program of no less than 200 theoretical and practical hours of study.	Not required

Scope of practice of an Acupuncture Practitioner:

- Perform auscultation and palpation to assess and measure pulse characteristics.
- Perform physical examination and history taking.
- Stimulate points, areas of the body, or substances in the body using qi, needles with or without electrical stimulation (using clean needle technique), moxibustion, heat and cold, color, light, or lasers.
- Evaluate the patient's sensitivity to acupuncture treatment and anticipate the probable reactions and responses to the administered therapy.
- Conduct therapeutic exercises, qi exercises, breathing techniques, and meditation.
- Apply musculoskeletal manipulation relevant to their training.
- Differentiate syndromes according to the eight principles, the theory of visceral manifestations, the theory of qi and blood, & the theory of meridians and collateral vessels.
- Provide dietary and nutritional counseling.
- Prescribe Chinese herbal medicines (single or in combination as patent medicines, tinctures, granules, or raw herbs) in accordance with the Pharmacy and Drug Control Department.

7.2 AYURVEDA PRACTITIONER:

Ayurveda is a holistic system of healing which originated and evolved in India over five thousand years ago for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of human health conditions and diseases; the promotion and/or restoration of health; and the support and stimulation of a patient's inherent self-healing processes through patient education and the use of Ayurveda therapies and therapeutic substances. It seeks to heal the fragmentation and disorder of the mind-body complex and restore wholeness and harmony. Ayurvedic therapies include herbs, nutrition, panchakarma cleansing, massage, and therapeutic yoga.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement	Experience Requirement
Approved bachelor's degree in Indian medicine - Ayurveda (BAMS), Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery) or equivalent of minimum five (5) years	2 years
Accredited Ayurveda Medicine program over a three to four (3-4) years full time/equivalent, comprising a minimum of 2500 hours (classroom theory and practical sessions) followed by 500 hours of supervised internship training	4 years

Licensed physicians with an accredited full-time Ayurveda training program comprising a minimum of two professional examinations and at least 1500 hours (classroom theory and practical sessions), followed by 500 hours of supervised clinical training.

2 years

Scope of practice of an Ayurveda Practitioner:

- Provide lifestyle modification advice, including nutritional, dietary, and preventive health guidance.
- Educate patients on holistic wellbeing, addressing physical, emotional, and mental balance according to Ayurveda principles, while refraining from any spiritual or religious practices.
- Refer patients to licensed physicians for ordering laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures, including medical imaging (e.g., X-rays), for diagnostic purposes as needed
- Conduct physiological function tests to assess the performance of body systems.
- Assist patients during prenatal and postnatal periods.
- Offer basic supportive care for mental health.
- Apply therapeutic yoga exercises, Pranayama breathing techniques, meditation, and detoxification practices as part of treatment.
- Prescribe and administer herbal medicines and over-the-counter products in accordance with Ayurveda practices and the Pharmacy and Drug Control Department's approved product list.
- Perform Ayurveda therapeutic manipulation and musculoskeletal massage, including the application of bandaging techniques with herbal preparations or Ayurvedic oils.

7.3 AYURVEDA TECHNICIAN:

An Ayurveda Technician is a trained complementary medicine support professional who assists a licensed Ayurveda Practitioner in delivering Ayurvedic therapies and wellness services. The technician works strictly under the supervision and direction of an Ayurveda Practitioner and within the limits of their education and training.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement

Certificate or Diploma in Ayurveda/Traditional Medicine, duration of not less than one year and 150 hours in-person clinical client encounters.

Experience Requirement

1 years

Scope of practice of an Ayurveda Technician:

- Conduct basic health assessments, such as assessing vital signs and general well-being, to provide information for Ayurvedic practitioners.
- Assist the licensed Ayurveda Practitioner in preparing herbal formulations, medicated oils, and other Ayurvedic therapeutic substances.
- Perform non-invasive Ayurvedic therapies and procedures, such as Abhyanga (therapeutic massage), Shirodhara, Swedana (herbal steam therapy), Kizhi, and Nasya, strictly as prescribed by the supervising practitioner.
- Ayurveda technicians educate clients on basic scientific Ayurvedic principles, lifestyle practices, and dietary recommendations. They may provide information on preventive healthcare and general well-being.
- Ayurveda technicians may support and help deliver management measures designed by the Ayurveda practitioner.
- Prepare and maintain the treatment area, therapy instruments, and materials following hygiene and infection control protocols.

7.4 CHIROPRACTOR PRACTITIONER:

Chiropractic medicine is the health profession of primary health care that specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disorders of the neuro-musculoskeletal system and their effects on general health and well-being. There is emphasis on manual techniques which involve manipulation, or adjustments, of the spinal segments, and other joints in the body.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement	Experience Requirement
Graduates of Accredited Chiropractic Programs. (BSc of Chiropractic, Doctor of Chiropractic, honors degree, or undergraduate, master's) or equivalent of minimum four (4) years	2 years
Licensed physician with an Accredited Chiropractic training program of a minimum 1800 hours over a two or three (2 or 3) years full time or part-time program, including a minimum of 1000 hours of supervised clinical experience.	2 years

Scope of practice of an Ayurveda Technician:

- Conduct clinical assessments of conditions affecting the spine, peripheral joints, and the neuromusculoskeletal system.
- Diagnose, prevent, manage, and provide rehabilitation and education for neuromusculoskeletal conditions and related functional disorders.
- Obtain informed consent from the patient or authorized person
- Perform patient assessment that includes a general physical examination, neuromusculoskeletal examination, and chiropractic examination.
- Perform clinical examinations in a systematic and structured manner yet relevant to the patient's presentation.
- Refer patients to licensed physicians for ordering laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures, including medical imaging (e.g., X-rays), for diagnostic purposes as needed
- Consider the risks and benefits in all studies conducted or ordered to evaluate patient clinical status.
- Explain outcomes and implications of diagnosis and plan of management, to the patient, family, and/or caregiver.
- Identify conditions that require secondary care and refer patients accordingly.
- Maintain a comprehensive record of patient care, including clinical assessment findings, diagnostic test interpretations, management plan, as well as patient progress between visits.
- Formulate and communicate a differential diagnosis, clinical impression, or diagnosis to identify underlying causes impacting a patient's symptoms, neuromusculoskeletal health, and general wellbeing.
- Perform spinal and extremity manipulations and adjustments, including the treatment of related muscles and connective tissues, to restore function and alleviate pain.
- Utilize appropriate mechanical, hygienic, and physical therapy measures to support patient care, including air, heat, cold, light, massage, exercise, rest, ultrasound, hydrotherapy, and other physical modalities as part of chiropractic management.
- Provide dietary and nutritional counseling, prescribe therapeutic exercise programs, and recommend vitamins, food supplements, and specialized dietary products as part of a holistic approach to patient health.
- Communicate to the patients (patients' guardians) the findings of the clinical examination and the diagnostic tests, as well as the treatment plan and the expected outcomes.
- Provide chiropractic therapeutic interventions that are related to exercise therapy, fascia manipulation, mechanical appliances, supportive devices, and traction therapy among others.
- Collaborate with other healthcare professionals to obtain expert opinion.
- Identify the referral priority of different emergency conditions (acute, subacute, and chronic) and refer them to a secondary health care provider accordingly.

- Case Management/ Referral of patients and Collaboration with other healthcare professionals to obtain expert opinion.
- Recognize signs of vertebrobasilar insufficiency, ischemia, cauda equina syndrome, or other conditions. Provide first aid intervention and refer the patient immediately to a secondary health care provider.

7.5 HERBAL/ORIENTAL MEDICINE PRACTITIONER:

Herbal medicine involves the use of herbs or herbal preparations derived from plants containing active substances for the treatment of various illnesses.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement	Experience Requirement
Professional bachelor's degree in Herbal Medicine/Oriental Medicine from an accredited program of a minimum of three (3) years, including internship	2 years
Licensed physician with an accredited full-time training program comprising a minimum of two professional examinations and at least 1500 hours (classroom theory and practical sessions) followed by 500 hours of supervised clinical training.	2 years

Scope of practice of an Herbal/Oriental Medicine Practitioner:

- Provide lifestyle modification counseling, including nutritional, dietary, and preventive health recommendations to support overall wellbeing.
- Conduct physiological function tests.
- Prescription and administration of herbal medicines and 'over the counter' medications consistent with Herbal/Oriental medicine practices and in compliance with the DHP and Pharmacy and Drug Control Department-approved products list.

7.6 HIJAMA PRACTITIONER:

Hijama (Cupping Therapy) is a complementary medicine practice that involves applying suction cups to the skin using thermal or mechanical methods. It may be performed as dry cupping, which uses suction alone to promote circulation and relieve tension, or as wet cupping, which includes controlled superficial skin incisions to draw a small amount of blood. Both techniques aim to enhance circulation, relieve pain, and support the body's natural healing processes.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement

Healthcare professionals with a valid DHP license, holders of a minimum academic qualification of a BSc degree (medical background)

And

Proof of completing the Hijama training program from an institution approved by DHP, and proof of completion of twenty five (25) Hijama cases as part of the training program.

Experience Requirement

2 years

Scope of practice of a Hijama (Cupping Therapy):

- Use cups traditionally made of glass; however, plastic cups may also be used in practice.
- Clean and sterilize all cupping tools and equipment thoroughly after each use.
- Ensure proper sterilization of instruments to maintain hygiene and safety during cupping therapy.
- Recognize that proper sterilization is vital for successful treatment, particularly in wet cupping, which involves bloodletting and carries a risk of disease transmission if infection control measures are not followed.
- Include in the practice of Hijama activities such as measuring vital signs before and after treatment, performing physical examinations within the practitioner's scope, and preparing or stimulating specific points or body areas using suction cups.

7.7 HOMEOPATHY PRACTITIONER:

Homeopathy practice follows the law of similarity, the direction of cure, the principle of single remedy, the theory of minimum diluted doses, and chronic disease therapy. It involves diagnosing and treating by prescribing substances that can produce similar symptoms, syndromes, and conditions in healthy individuals, thereby encouraging the body to combat the disease.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement

Professional Degree of Homeopathy (BHMS, Bachelor in Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery)/ licentiate from an accredited Homeopathic program of not less than 5 years (including internship).

Certification from an accredited Homeopathy program of not less than 3 years full time program

Licensed physician to practice Homeopathy with a Homeopathic program (minimum one (1) year course duration)

Experience Requirement

2 years

4 years

2 years

Scope of practice of Homeopathy Practitioner:

- Provide lifestyle modification counseling, including nutritional, dietary, and preventive health recommendations to support overall wellbeing.
- Deliver education and guidance on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment consistent with homeopathic principles and practices.
- Refer patients to licensed physicians for ordering laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures, including medical imaging (e.g., X-rays), for diagnostic purposes.
- Conduct physiological function tests.
- Request diagnostic imaging studies consistent with their license.
- Prescription and administration of homeopathic medicines and 'over the counter' medications tailored to each individual patient's condition, with awareness of medication effects, interactions and side effects, and comply with the Pharmacy and Drug control Department approved products list.
- Homeopathic medicines must be manufactured according to a widely recognized homeopathic pharmacopoeia and the Pharmacy and Drug control Department approved product list. They may be derived from mineral, zoological, botanical, chemical, or biological sources and can be available in various forms, such as powders, pellets, solutions, ophthalmic and nasal solutions, oral tablets or injectables, suppositories, ointments, gels, and lotions for topical use from homeopathic stocks or mother tinctures.
 - o All medications must have the original manufacturer's labeling, including identification information such as the expiry date, potency, and lot number, and must be in an unopened package from a Qatar-registered manufacturer.
 - o Administer or order homeopathic medicines (pharmaceutical dosage form) and 'over the counter' medicines registered with MoPH approved products list.

7.8 MEDICAL MASSAGE THERAPIST:

Medical Massage Therapy is a therapeutic practice that uses specialized manual techniques to manipulate soft tissues such as muscles, tendons, ligaments, and joints. It aims to relieve pain, reduce muscle tension, promote healing of injuries, alleviate stress, and enhance overall physical and mental well-being.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement	Experience Requirement
Bachelor's degree in the Complementary and Alternative Medicine field and a study of at least in Massaging of no less than (500 hours of practical massage.	2 years
The training program of Massage therapy of minimum of five hundred (500) hours. Minimum program requirement: Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, massage and/or body work, hygiene, and business and ethics.	2 years

Scope of practice of Medical Massage Therapist:

- Assess soft tissues and joints of the body to identify pain, dysfunction, and movement restrictions.
- Conduct comprehensive pre-massage assessments, including review of medical, injury, and medication history, allergy profile, and preferred pressure level.
- Evaluate clients before and during massage sessions to locate areas of tension or discomfort and to monitor their response to treatment.
- Identify contraindications to massage and modify or defer treatment when necessary to ensure client safety.
- Perform a range of manual therapy techniques—such as effleurage, petrissage, friction, compression, stretching, myofascial release, and trigger-point therapy—according to the client’s needs and condition.
- Manipulate muscles, tendons, ligaments, and other soft tissues to relieve pain, improve circulation, reduce tension, and promote recovery.
- Apply joint mobilization techniques to enhance flexibility and range of motion.
- Provide rehabilitative and preventive massage therapy as part of an integrated healthcare plan or under physician referral.
- Educate clients on stretching, strengthening, posture correction, relaxation techniques, and appropriate home care to support long-term well-being.
- Collaborate with physicians, physiotherapists, and other healthcare professionals to develop and implement treatment plans when indicated.
- Promote relaxation, relieve muscular tension, improve circulation, enhance flexibility, support systemic function, and contribute to overall health and well-being through the safe and effective application of massage therapy techniques.

7.9 NATUROPATHY PRACTITIONERS:

Naturopathy emphasizes promoting optimal health through therapeutic approaches that support and enhance the body’s natural self-healing processes.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement	Experience Requirement
BSc of Naturopathy (ND - Doctor of Naturopathy/BNYS- Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences) or equivalent of a minimum of four (4) years’ course duration, including supervised clinical training.	2 years
Licensed physician with accredited Naturopathic training program over two (2) years Or Three (3) years full-time or part-time period of minimum 1000 hours, including a minimum of 400 hours of supervised clinical training	2 years

Scope of practice of a Naturopathy practitioner:

- Provide lifestyle modification guidance, including nutrition, diet, and preventive measures, with recommendations for specific foods, extracts, nutraceuticals, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, enzymes, botanicals, and dietary supplements in compliance with DHP and the Pharmacy and Drug control Department approved product list.
- Refer patients to licensed physicians for ordering laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures, including medical imaging (e.g., X-rays), for diagnostic purposes as needed
- Conduct Physiological function tests.
- Provide education on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with naturopathy practices.
- Perform naturopathic physical medicine and therapeutic exercise, including yoga.
- Perform Naturopathic osseous and musculoskeletal manipulation.
- Perform Electromagnetic energy therapy, Reflexology, Chromotherapy, and mud therapy.
- Perform Colon hydrotherapy.
- Perform Hot or cold hydrotherapy.

7.10 OSTEOPATHY PRACTITIONER:

Osteopathy emphasizes the relationship between the body's structure—muscles, bones, joints, and soft tissues—and its functions, including the role of internal organs in health and disease, using Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) techniques.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement	Experience Requirement
Degree of Osteopathy (Doctor of Osteopathy, Master's degree of Osteopathy, or Bachelor's of Musculoskeletal Health and Postgraduate Diploma in Osteopathy, or Bachelor's in Health Science and Master's in Osteopathy)	2 years
Licensed physician with an accredited Osteopathic Medicine program of a minimum of one (1) year full time or part-time equivalent of a minimum 1000 hours, including supervised clinical training.	2 years

Scope of practice of an Osteopathy practitioner:

- Prepare patients for osteopathic assessments and treatment sessions, ensuring comfort, safety, and proper positioning during procedures.

- Provide education on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with osteopathic practices.
- Assessment and treatment of mechanical and functional problems involving the muscles, joints, spine, and associated structures, including pain, stiffness, and impaired movement.
- Refer patients to licensed physicians for ordering laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures, including medical imaging (e.g., X-rays), for diagnostic purposes as needed
- Conduct Physiological function tests.
- Prescription and administration of traditional osteopathic procedures such as: Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, which includes (Cranial osteopathy, Functional adjustments, balanced ligamentous tension adjustments, Muscle energy adjustments).
- Perform Electrotherapy, hot and cold hydrotherapy.
- Perform Therapeutic exercises.
- Perform General osteopathic techniques, including - Direct techniques such as high- velocity low-amplitude thrusts and articulatory methods; and indirect techniques, such as functional techniques, counter strain, balancing ligamentous tensions, ligamentous articulatory strain, and other balancing techniques.
- Perform Myofascial and fascial release techniques.
- Perform Still's technique.
- Perform Cranial Osteopathy, including involuntary mechanism and visceral techniques.
- Perform Reflex based techniques, including Chapman's reflexes, trigger points, neuromuscular techniques, and fluid-based techniques such as lymphatic pump techniques.
- Advice on dietary changes, food extracts, nutraceuticals, amino acids, vitamins, minerals, enzymes, botanicals and their extracts, in compliance with the DHP and Pharmacy and Drug Control Department-approved products list.
- Use of therapeutic devices after obtaining training and experience in their safe use.
- Management of acute and chronic conditions resulting from falls, strains, poor posture, tension, emotional stress, and headache.
- Provide Osteopathic care for conditions associated with impaired function of the body's systems, such as digestive disturbances, circulatory or respiratory problems, ear, nose, and throat conditions (especially in children), and stress-related disorders. Osteopathy also plays a supportive role in inpatient care and post-operative recovery.
- Support and management of musculoskeletal and functional problems associated with pregnancy, childbirth, infancy, and childhood, promoting comfort, mobility, and healthy development.
- Prevention, assessment, and treatment of sports injuries and performance-related musculoskeletal issues across all levels of physical activity, including professional and elite athletes.
- Osteopaths shall not perform surgical interventions or prescribe pharmaceutical medications unless legally authorized.

7.11 REFLEXOLOGY THERAPIST:

A reflexology therapist believes there are certain points on the feet and hands that correspond to the organs and glands in the body. So, by pressing and massaging these points, it can stimulate energy pathways in the body.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement

Bachelor's degree in the field of Complementary and Alternative Medicine and at least 300 hours of practical study in Reflexology.

Graduated from a recognized Reflexology training program or its equivalent of at least three hundred (300) hours of classes approved in the state or country where it is located. The minimum program requirements include Anatomy, Physiology, Reflexology theory, contraindication care, hygiene, business, and ethics.

Experience Requirement

2 years

2 years

Scope of practice of a Reflexology Practitioner/Therapist:

- Utilize specialized pressure techniques on reflex points of the feet, hands, and ears to promote holistic wellbeing.
- Apply knowledge of reflexology maps to stimulate corresponding organs, glands, and body systems.
- Conduct comprehensive patient/client assessments and develop individualized treatment plans based on client health and needs.

7.12 TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE (TCM) PRACTITIONERS:

Traditional Chinese Medicine focuses on health enhancement and treatment using unique theories and includes Chinese Herbal Medicine, Acupuncture and Moxibustion.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement

B.T&CM - Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine from a recognized University of a minimum of five (5) years full-time duration including one (1) year internship

An accredited Traditional Chinese Medicine Education program of three to four years full time or the equivalent of a minimum total of 2,400 hours (consisting of 1,500 hours of theory and laboratory/clinical practice and 900 hours of clinical practicum)

Experience Requirement

2 years

4 years

Licensed physician with an accredited training program in TCM of two (2) - three (3) years full time or the equivalent of a minimum total of 1300 hours (Consisting of 800 hours of theory and laboratory/clinical practice and 500 hours of supervised clinical practicum)

2 years

Scope of Practice of a Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner:

- Education on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with Traditional Chinese Medicine practices.
- Refer patients to licensed physicians for ordering laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures, including medical imaging (e.g., X-rays), for diagnostic purposes as needed
- Conduct Physiological function tests.
- Provide lifestyle modification counseling, including nutritional, dietary, and preventive health recommendations to support overall wellbeing.
- Prescription and administration of Traditional Chinese Medicines and 'over the counter' medications, in compliance with the MoPH, Pharmacy and Drug Control Department approved products list. The clinic must have all products registered and available in compounding areas (internal pharmacy).
- Perform Traditional Chinese Medicine therapeutic manipulation and massage of the musculoskeletal system (Tui Na).
- Insertion of fine, sterile needles into specific acupuncture points along the body's meridians to encourage the normal flow of Qi through the body, clearing any energy blockages. This can be performed with or without electrical stimulation, moxibustion, color, light, lasers, different temperatures (hot and cold), or suction by cupping, following sterile techniques.
- Perform breathing and other therapeutic, Qi exercises and Meditation.
- Perform cupping and comply with sterilization techniques.
- Perform Acupuncture treatments with sterile, disposable needles for single use only and must be disposed of properly, following DHP sterilization standards and regulations.

7.13 TRADITIONAL KOREAN MEDICINE PRACTITIONERS:

Traditional Korean Medicine is a therapeutic system derived from ancient Chinese Medicine that emphasizes a patient-centered approach through Sasang constitutional classification and Saam acupuncture techniques. Treatments are customized according to each patient's anatomical features, temperament, and individual characteristics.

Standards of registration and licensing:

Qualification Requirement

Completion of an accredited training program in traditional Korean medicine of four (4) years duration. One (1) year general practice and three (3) years specialization.

Experience Requirement

2 years

Scope of Practice of a Traditional Korean Medicine Practitioner:

- Classify patients using Sasang constitutional assessment by evaluating anatomical traits, temperament, and physiological characteristics to determine one of four types—Tae-eum, So-Yang, So-eum, or Tae-Yang—and tailor treatment accordingly.
- Apply acupuncture techniques by stimulating specific points along the 12 meridians, each associated with an organ's dominant element and energy type, to restore physiological balance and promote health.
- Measure vital signs and perform pulse diagnosis by assessing pulse characteristics to guide treatment decisions.
- Provide lifestyle modification counseling, offering guidance on nutrition, diet, and preventive health practices to support overall wellbeing.
- Refer patients to licensed physicians for ordering laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures, including medical imaging (e.g., X-rays), for diagnostic purposes as needed.
- Conduct physiological function tests to evaluate the performance of organs and body systems as part of the diagnostic process.
- Administer acupuncture treatments by selecting points associated with the five elements—earth, metal, water, wood, and fire—and six types of Qi energy to stimulate healing and restore balance.
- Perform cupping therapy by applying suction cups to the skin to enhance circulation and eliminate stagnant or harmful substances from the body.
- Use moxibustion therapy by burning herbal moxa near the skin to warm specific points and improve the flow of Qi and blood.
- Promote overall balance and harmony within the body's physiological and energetic systems through integrated therapeutic practices.
- Administer herbal acupuncture, including bee venom therapy, and prescribe herbal medicines using approved and safe products for the management of various conditions.
- Facilitate meditation practices to enhance mental focus, reduce stress, and promote holistic wellbeing.



8. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT & CONSIDERATIONS

TCIM Healthcare Professionals Licensure Requirements TCIM Healthcare professionals applying for Licensure must fulfill the following requirements:

- Applicants must hold a current valid license/registration to practice in their home country or country of last employment (where applicable).
- Applicants must submit their complete transcripts that indicate the theoretical and clinical hours as applicable.
- A Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner may practice Dry cupping within the scope of their title.
- Non-medical applicants opting to obtain a Hijama Therapist title will be evaluated case by case by the expert panels and based on specific conditions and criteria.
- Physicians applying for TCIM titles must hold a valid Authority license to practice as a physician. The TCIM title will be considered as an extended/additional scope for the physicians.
- Eligible practitioners may apply for evaluation through the DHP system by accessing the following link:

[Guidelines & Useful Links](#)

REFERENCES

No.	Reference Date	Reference Name	Reference link
1	2020	Standards for Outpatient Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Services Dubai Healthcare City Authority.	
2	2011	Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine Scope of Practice Dubai Health Authority.	
3	2022	WHO Regional framework for harnessing traditional and complementary medicine for achieving health and well-being in the Western Pacific.	
4	2022	WHO international standard terminologies on traditional Chinese medicine	
5	2022	WHO Benchmarks for Ayurveda	
6	2025	Unified Healthcare Professional Qualification Requirements (PQR)	
7	2023	Introduction to Professional Qualification Requirement (PQR)	
8	2023	DoH standard for Clinical Privileging of Healthcare Workforce and Clinical Services	
9	2021	WHO Benchmarks for the training of Acupuncture	
10	2019	Federal Law No. (5) of 2019 on Regulating the Practice of Human Medicine and its Executive Regulations	

11	2023	Federal Law No. (6) of 2023 regarding the Practice of some Medical Professions by people other than Physicians & Pharmacists.	
12	2017	Ministerial Resolution No. (1448) of 2017 on the Adoption of Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Health Professionals	
13	2014	Federal Law on the Prevention of Communicable Diseases No. (14) of 2014 and its Executive Regulations	
14	2016	Federal Decree Law No. (4) of 2016 concerning medical liability and its Executive Regulations	
15	2016	DoH Scope of Practice Chiropractor practitioner	
16	2011	Traditional Japanese Kampo Medicine: Clinical Research between Modernity and Traditional Medicine-The State of Research and Methodological Suggestions for the Future. Evid Based Complement Alternat Med.	
17	2015	Evolution of Medicine. Integrative Approaches for Health. Korea.	
18	2012	DoH Policy on Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness of Healthcare Facilities	
19	2024	DoH Standard for Provision of Home Healthcare Services	
20	2015	HAAD Guidelines for Patient Consent	
21	2023	DoH Standard on Reporting Medication Errors & Suspected Quality Problems Related to Medicinal Products and Dietary Supplements.	

22	2016	DHP – Regulation on Complementary Medicine	
23	2024	Inclusion of the Medical Massage Therapy scope	
24	2022	Federal Law No. (5) of 1984 concerning the Practice of Some Health Professions by Persons other than Physicians and Pharmacists	
25	2022	Federal Law No. (5) of 2019 on Regulating the Practice of Human Medicine and its Executive Regulations	
26	2022	National Sports Council UAE	
27	2022	Competency-Based Professional Standards for Chiropractor	
28	2022	Scope of Practice: Chiropractor	
29	2025	Reflexology Association– Canada	
30	2020	Natural Healthcare Practitioner of Canada	
31	2025	Complementary & Natural Healthcare Council – UK	
32	2004	WHO Guidelines on Acupuncture Practitioners	



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