


Health Authority – Abu Dhabi		هيئة الصحة - أبوظبي
Division/Department/Section: PPR/DMP Subject: Scope of Practice in Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine	Reference Number: PPR/DMP/P0004/08 Issue Date: February 2008 Revision Date: February 2010 Version: 1	

1. PURPOSE

The Health Authority Abu Dhabi (HAAD) is responsible for regulating the Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine (TCAM) practice in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The purpose of the scope of practice is to clearly define the competency framework for professional practice of TCAM and to encourage the practitioners to work within a broader frame work that does not ignore the role of orthodox medicine.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1. No professional will practice Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi without being licensed by HAAD.
- 2.2. HAAD mandates all TCAM practitioners to work within their scope of practice as defined and detailed in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3. HAAD requires all Health care facilities to refer to this Scope of Practice when developing clinical practice guidelines and job descriptions for TCAM practitioners

3. SCOPE


To promote standard clinical practice in TCAM and to safeguard the interest of the patients availing TCAM services in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

4. TARGET AUDIENCE

The policy is applicable to all public and private Health care facilities management and TCAM Practitioners operating within the jurisdiction of HAAD.

5. RESPONSIBILITY

- 5.1. TCAM practitioners must comply with the policy as per the scope of practice.

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5.2. HAAD to ensure compliance to the policy through continuous monitoring and inspection visits.

6. PROCEDURE

HAAD mandates that all TCAM practitioners to abide by this scope of practice as attached in **Appendix 1**.


7. DEFINITION AND ABBREVIATIONS

TCAM	Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine disciplines defined in Appendix 2
Orthodox Medicine	A system in which medical doctors and other healthcare professionals (such as nurses, pharmacists and therapists) treat symptoms and diseases using drugs, radiation, or surgery. Also called conventional medicine, Western medicine, mainstream medicine, biomedicine, and allopathic medicine.
HAAD	Health Authority Abu Dhabi
Traditional Medicine	It is the sum total of knowledge, skills and practices based on the theories, beliefs and experiences in indigenous to different culture, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness.
Complementary / Alternative Medicine	Often refers to a broad set of health care practices that are not a part of country's own tradition and are not integrated into the dominant health-care system.
Scope of Practice	The term which defines and describes the roles and responsibilities of health professionals, to provide a frame work for establishing standards which individuals are expected to demonstrate according to their educational and clinical experience.
TCAM Practitioner	A professional person qualified by education and authorized by Health Authority Abu Dhabi to practice any of the TCAM disciplines as listed in Appendix 2.

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8. CROSS REFERENCES

1. Council for health care regulatory excellence. Available at <http://www.chre.org.uk>. Accessed on October 2007.
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3. The regulation of non medical Health professionals, A review by the department of Health, UK. Also available at [dh.gov.uk / publications](http://dh.gov.uk/publications). Accessed on October 2007.
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9. APPENDIX I


SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR TCAM PRACTITONERS

*(*Document has been endorsed by the HAAD Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine Task Force)*


1. Health Authority Abu Dhabi permits the TCAM practitioners to act as a portal of entry and provide health care limited to their area of training and expertise.
2. TCAM Practitioners need to recognize that they are holding themselves out to practice within a system of law and medicine which will review the standard of care that has been taken in relation to a patient
3. The TCAM practitioners shall comply at all times with the requirements of Code of Practice for TCAM practitioners. Any TCAM practitioner who fails to meet the requirements of the code of practice shall be held in breach of the code of ethics and shall be subjected to disciplinary measures on the grounds of professional misconduct.
4. The TCAM practitioners should ensure that their practice and procedures are well defined and transparent, they are operated in a way that is fair and hygienic and that all efforts to ensure standards of good medical practice are involved.
5. TCAM practitioners should be aware of extend and limits of their specialty. They should essentially know which conditions they will be unable to treat successfully, and be able to identify and refer patients to medically qualified physicians and specialists when necessary. A patient showing signs and symptoms of an underlying pathological condition should be advised to seek a medical diagnosis.
6. The practitioner should assist the patients in weighing the possible benefits and risks of other types of treatment, helping them to consider conventional diagnostic procedures; routine screening tests etc, acknowledging the usefulness of such procedures at appropriate times, even for those who may wish to avoid conventional treatment.

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7. It is advisable that TCAM practitioners make diagnosis according to the science and philosophy of their field of training/ specialty. They should not give a medical diagnosis to the patient. However when discovering dysfunctions, they can make mention of any believed disorder and advice the patient to see the doctor for medical diagnosis and record the same.
8. Render assistance to patients in emergency situations, to the greatest extent permitted by training and circumstances.
9. TCAM Practitioners can only prescribe pharmaceutical medicines and products as per their own specialty. They can also prescribe ‘over the counter’ products that are registered with the Ministry of Health.
10. When a remedy is prescribed, it is not enough to say that the remedy is traditional and considered not harmful. It is the duty of the practitioner to ensure that the remedy is, in fact, not harmful or potentially harmful.
11. The patient has the right to know and the practitioner is obliged to offer, the name or names of the prescribed remedy or remedies unless the patient agrees otherwise. Clear instructions must be made for each prescription made. They should not use secret remedies.
12. The Practitioner should not alter a medical doctor’s prescription to the patient. When a patient’s health improves as a result of complementary treatment, the practitioner should not reduce the dosage or stop their prescribed medication. He should be aware that the responsibility for adjusting or withdrawing prescribed medication lies with the patient and the prescriber of that medication.
13. The TCAM practitioners are not allowed to treat patients with acute or critical conditions who need immediate emergency medical care. They should not perform any surgical procedure or any inoculation or injections as well as blood withdrawal from patients (Except for cupping and ozone therapies under special permissions). They are also forbidden from practicing midwifery.
14. Claims, whether explicit or implied, orally or in writing implying cure of any named disease must be avoided.


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15. The TCAM practitioners are not allowed to treat communicable diseases.
16. TCAM practitioners can offer hope to patients, both by attempting to influence the underlying disease and, often more importantly, by addressing emotional states, energy levels, coping styles, and other aspects that contribute to quality of life. This is particularly important for patients with chronic diseases and no prospect of cure from conventional medicine.
17. TCAM practitioners must always balance their claims carefully while treating patients. They should consider the realistic chances of improvement and foresee the dangers of creating false hope and further disappointment.
18. The TCAM Practitioners are not allowed to sell or dispense any prescribed or advised products or preparations from his own practice clinic unless he is permitted by the Abu Dhabi Health Authority to do so ("dispensing practitioners.")
19. The TCAM practitioner should only use the professional title granted to him by the HAAD Medical licensing committee. They are forbidden from using any other title that may create a false impression that the individual concerned is a registered medical doctor.
20. The TCAM practitioner will not draw up or sign any certificates or documents that should be statutorily filled up and signed by a registered medical doctor.
21. TCAM practitioners should be aware of those diseases which are notifiable under the law and should take appropriate actions in this regard.
22. TCAM practitioners must avoid recording on film, video or through digital techniques, any material or imagery concerning a patient which might be regarded as explicit, indecent or pornographic. They may use film, tape recording or digital imagery of material concerning a patient only with the patient's clear, informed, written consent to the precise use of the material.
23. TCAM practitioner must act in your patient's best interest when making referrals and when providing or arranging treatment or care. You must not ask or accept

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any inducement, gift or hospitality which may effect or be seen to affect the way you prescribe for, treat or refer patients.

24. TCAM practitioners intending to undertake research must be familiar with and abide by current research ethics requirements, research governance and statutory obligations regarding research.
25. Patients who complain about the care or treatment they have received have the right to expect a prompt and appropriate response. You have the professional responsibility to ensure that they have clear information about how and where to express any concern they may have.

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APPENDIX II

List of Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine specialties defined by HAAD.

1. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)
2. Traditional Indian Medicine (Ayurveda)
3. Unani Medicine
4. Homeopathic Medicine
5. Herbal Medicine
6. Traditional Medicine
7. Naturopathic Medicine
8. Chiropractor
9. Osteopathy
10. Acupuncture
11. Cupping Therapy
12. Ozone Therapy
13. Therapeutic Massage Therapy