

## EHTPA STANDARDS OF PROFICIENCY

### Herbal and Traditional Medicine Practitioners

#### 1. Expectations of a Health Professional

1a: Professional autonomy and accountability

Registrant herbal and traditional-medicine practitioners must:

1a.1 be able to practise within the legal and ethical boundaries of their profession  
understand the need to act in the best interests of patients at all times

-be aware of current UK and European legislation applicable to the work of their profession.  
-be aware of any guidance from UK or European bodies that regulate standards and affect herbal medicine practice

1a.2 be able to practise in a non-discriminatory manner

1a.3 understand the importance of and be able to maintain confidentiality

1a.4 understand the importance of and be able to obtain informed consent

1a.5 be able to exercise a professional duty of care

1a.6 be able to practise as an autonomous professional, exercising their own professional judgement

be able to assess a situation, determine the nature and severity of the problem and call upon the required knowledge and experience to deal with the problem

- be able to initiate resolution of problems and be able to exercise personal initiative

- know the limits of their practice and when to seek advice or refer to another professional

- recognise that they are personally responsible for, and must be able to justify, their decisions

1a.7 recognises the need for effective self-management of workload and resources and be able to practise accordingly.

1a.8 understand the obligation to maintain fitness to practice - understand the need to act in the best interests of patients at all times

-understand the need to update knowledge of safety and effectiveness of herbal medicines

- understand what is required of them by the Health and Care Professions Council

1b: Professional relationships:

1b.1 be able to work, where appropriate, in partnership with other professionals, support staff, patients and their relatives and carers

- understand the need to build and sustain professional relationships as both an independent practitioner and collaboratively as a member of a team

- understand the need to engage patients and carers in planning and evaluating diagnostics, treatments and

<p>interventions to meet their needs and goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be able to make appropriate referrals</li> </ul>
<p>1b.2 be able to contribute effectively to work undertaken as part of a multi-disciplinary team</p>
<p>1b.3 be able to demonstrate effective and appropriate skills in communicating information, advice, instruction and professional opinion to colleagues, patients, their relatives and carers</p>
<p>be able to communicate in English to the standard equivalent to level 7 of the International English Language Testing System with no element below 6.5</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand how communications skills affect the assessment of patients and how the means of communication should be modified to address and take account of factors such as age, physical ability and learning ability</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be able to select, move between and use, appropriate forms of verbal and non-verbal communication with patients and others</li> <li>- be aware of the characteristics and sequences of non-verbal communication and how this can be affected by culture, age, ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs and socio-economic status</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand the need to provide patients (or people acting on their behalf) with the information necessary to enable them to make informed decisions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand the need to use an appropriate interpreter to assist patients whose first language is not English, wherever possible</li> <li>- recognise that relationships with patients should be based on mutual respect and trust, and be able to maintain high standards of care even in situations of personal incompatibility</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be able to explain the nature, purpose and techniques of herbal and-traditional-medicine practice to patients and colleagues</li> </ul>
<p>1b.4 understand the need for effective communication throughout the care of the patient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- recognise the need to use interpersonal skills to encourage the active participation of patients</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be able to communicate the outcome of problem solving and research and development activities</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand the need to establish and sustain a positive therapeutic relationship within a caring environment</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. The skills required for the application of practice:</b></p>
<p>2a. Identification and assessment of health and social care needs:</p>
<p>2a.1 be able to gather appropriate information</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be able to gather information according to herbal and traditional medicine practice, taking account of personal, mental-emotional, social, cultural, economic, and spiritual factors when taking the case history- be able to apply relevant diagnostic techniques from within their tradition and training, as well as use of appropriate medical assessment techniques</li> <li>- be able to take account of investigations already made by the patient's other healthcare professionals, if any</li> </ul>
<p>2a.2 be able to select and use appropriate assessment techniques</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be able to undertake and record a thorough, sensitive and detailed assessment, using appropriate techniques and equipment</li> <li>- be able to investigate and monitor pathological processes and normal states according to herbal or traditional-medicine practice, as well as making use of appropriate orthodox medical techniques</li> </ul>
<p>2a.3 be able to undertake or arrange clinical investigations as appropriate</p>
<p>2a.4 be able to analyse and critically evaluate the information collected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be able to analyse and evaluate information collected according to the principles of herbal or traditional medicine and use it to formulate an appropriate diagnosis, taking into account relevant factors from a bio-medical point of view</li> <li>- be able to search and critically evaluate scientific literature and other sources of information relevant to the patient's needs</li> </ul>
<p>2b Formulation and delivery of plans and strategies for meeting health and social care needs</p>
<p>2b.1 be able to use research, reasoning and problem solving skills to determine appropriate actions consistent with the principles of herbal and traditional medicine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- recognise the value of research to the critical evaluation of practice</li> <li>- be able to engage in evidence-based practice, evaluate practice systematically, and participate in audit procedures</li> <li>- be aware of a range of research methodologies</li> <li>- be able to demonstrate a logical and systematic approach to problem solving</li> <li>- be able to evaluate research and other evidence to inform their own practice</li> </ul>
<p>2b.2 be able to draw on appropriate knowledge and skills in order to make professional judgements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be able to change their practice as needed to take account of new developments</li> <li>- understand the relevant national frameworks for medicines use</li> <li>- be able to demonstrate a level of skill in the use of information technology appropriate to their practice</li> <li>- access e-mail and online sites so that information on safety is received promptly</li> </ul>
<p>2b.3 be able to formulate specific and appropriate management plans including the setting of timescales, discharge and end point of treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand the requirement to adapt practice to meet the needs of different groups distinguished by, for example, physical, physiological, environmental, cultural or socio-economic factors</li> <li>- be able to form a diagnosis and plan treatment according to herbal and traditional medicine training</li> </ul>

-ensure that prognosis, likely duration of service, fee structure and charges are clearly stated to the client
2b.4 be able to conduct appropriate diagnostic or monitoring procedures, treatment, therapy or other actions safely and skilfully - understand the need to maintain the safety of patients and those involved in their care - understand the general public health and safety issues related to medicines and their use -understand the different reasons for non adherence to medicines (practical and behavioural) and how best to support patients
- be able to assist patients to understand and become committed to self-care habits including diet, exercise and other lifestyle adjustments to support treatment according to the herbal and traditional-medicine system. - routinely assess adherence in a non judgemental way
manage the dispensary in order to dispense a range of herbal medicines in a safe and hygienic manner with special regard to ensuring traceability of all ingredients of herbal medicine - maintain an adequate knowledge base of the main actions, indications, contraindications and evidence on safety on the herbs within their dispensary -be aware of changes in guidance on quality assurance with regards to the quality of the herbal medicines dispensed
- be able to work in conformity with standard operating procedures and conditions relevant to herbal medicine preparation and dispensing according to the herbal and traditional-medicine system -act upon colleagues' inappropriate/unethical prescribing practice using appropriate mechanisms
2b.5 be able to keep accurate and contemporaneous records and clinical notes, recognise the need to handle these records and all other information in accordance with applicable legislation, protocols and guidelines; understand the need to use only accepted terminology in making appropriate clinical records
2c Critical evaluation of the impact of, or response to, the registrant's actions 2c.1 be able to monitor and review the ongoing effectiveness of planned activity and modify it accordingly - be able to gather information, including qualitative and quantitative data, which helps to evaluate the responses of patients to their care - be able to evaluate intervention plans using recognised outcome measures and revise the plans as necessary in conjunction with the patient
- recognise the need to monitor and evaluate the quality of practice and the value of contributing to the generation of data for quality assurance and improvement programmes
- be able to make reasoned decisions to initiate, continue, modify or cease treatment or the use of techniques or procedures, and record the decisions and reasoning appropriately
- be able to implement and use the yellow-card scheme for recording adverse reactions to herbal medicines -review practice to prevent prescribing errors and/or recurrences
2c.2 be able to audit, reflect on and review practice

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand the principles of quality control and quality assurance</li> <li>- be aware of the role of audit and review in quality management, including quality control, quality assurance and the use of appropriate outcome measures</li> <li>- be able to maintain an effective audit trail and work towards continual improvement</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- participate in quality assurance programmes, where appropriate</li> <li>- understand the value of reflection on practice and the need to record the outcome of such reflection</li> <li>- negotiate the appropriate level of support for the prescriber and provide support to other prescribers where appropriate</li> <li>- recognise the value of case conferences and other methods of review</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- recognise the need to be aware of new developments in understanding and use of herbal medicines</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Knowledge, understanding and skills</b></p>
<p>3a.1 Know and understand the key concepts of the bodies of knowledge which are relevant to their profession-specific practice</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand the structure and function of the human body, relevant to their practice, together with knowledge of health, disease, disorder and dysfunction</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- be aware of the principles and applications of scientific enquiry, including the evaluation of treatment efficacy and the research process</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand the pharmacological effects of the major groups of plant compounds used in practice</li> <li>- know the concepts underpinning the herbal and traditional medicine system in which the registrant practises</li> <li>- understand the mode of action of an appropriate range and number of medicinal plants in the materia medica according to the herbal or traditional-medicine system the registrant practises - understand the toxicology of medicinal plants in the material medica, possible adverse effects, cautions and contraindications</li> <li>- be aware of the potential for herb-drug interactions and formulate treatment accordingly</li> <li>- understand the key concepts of health and of disease pathways according to the herbal or traditional-medicine system and the role of herbal or traditional medicines in preserving health and treating disease</li> <li>- understand the need for informed advice on antimicrobial resistance and healthcare associated infections</li> <li>- know the relevant regulation and/or guidelines affecting the preparation and dispensing of herbal medicines</li> <li>- know the forms of preparations of herbal medicines and be able to choose among them for appropriate administration</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand research methods appropriate for use in herbal and traditional medicine research and evaluate papers critically</li> </ul>
<p>3a.2 know how professional principles are expressed and translated into action through a number of different approaches to practice, and how to select or modify approaches to meet the needs of an individual, groups or communities</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understand the rational basis that underpins the use of procedures relevant to the herbal or traditional-medicine system</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- know and implement the standards of manufacture/preparation and dispensing relevant to herbal and traditional</li> </ul>

medicine
3a.3 understand the need to establish and maintain a safe practice environment
- be aware of applicable health and safety legislation, and any relevant safety policies and procedures in force at the workplace, such as incident reporting, and be able to act in accordance with these
- be able to work safely, including being able to select appropriate hazard control and risk management, reduction or elimination techniques in a safe manner in accordance with health and safety legislation - be able to select appropriate personal protective equipment and use it correctly - be able to establish safe environments for practice, which minimise risks to patients, those treating them, and others, including the use of hazard control and particularly infection control
- manage the dispensary with regard to the safety of staff and service users - understand the application of principles of good dispensary practice and preparation of herbal medicines with regard to current guidance from relevant statutory or advisory bodies and professional associations
- where herbal practitioners manufacture herbal medicines, adequate training in methods of characterization of raw herbal ingredients, cultivation and collection of raw materials.

Approved

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