

[PITAHC, March 19, 2008]

**GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTING R.A. 8423 IRR ON THE NATIONAL
CERTIFICATION OF ACUPUNCTURISTS AND ACCREDITATION OF
ACUPUNCTURE TRAINING PROGRAMS, CENTERS AND CLINICS**

Rule I
Policy and Application

ARTICLE 1. Title

These guidelines shall be known as the PITAHC Guidelines on the National Certification of Acupuncturists and Accreditation of Acupuncture Training Programs, Training Centers and Clinics.

ARTICLE 2. Purpose

These Guidelines are promulgated to prescribe the procedures and guidelines for the implementation of PITAHC IRR on the National Certification of Acupuncturists and accreditation of Acupuncture Training Programs, Training Centers and Clinics pursuant to Rule VI. Promotion, Advocacy and Training of IRR of RA 8423. These Rules also serve the accreditation of acupuncture programs, training centers and clinics to pursue continuous service improvement, and strengthen the accountability of all stakeholders in the traditional and alternative health care practices.

ARTICLE 3. Declaration of Policy

It is the policy of the State to improve the quality and delivery of health care services to the Filipino people through the development of traditional and alternative health care and its integration into the national health care delivery system.

ARTICLE 4. Scope of Application

These guidelines shall apply to the following:

- 4.1 Accreditation of training Programs
- 4.2 Training Centers for Acupuncture
- 4.3 Accreditation of Acupuncture Clinics
- 4.4 National Certification of Acupuncturists

ARTICLE 5. Definitions of Terms

For the purpose of these guidelines, the following terms and words and phrases shall mean or be understood as follows:

- a. *Republic Act 8423* -An Act creating the "Philippine Institute of Traditional and

Alternative Health Care (PITAHC)" to accelerate the development of traditional and alternative health care in the Philippines or otherwise known as "Traditional and Alternative Medical Act (TAMA) of 1997".

b. *Traditional and Alternative Health Care* - the sum total of knowledge, skills and practices, other than those embodied in biomedicine, used in the prevention, diagnosis and elimination of physical or mental disorders.

c. *Biomedicine* - that discipline of medical care advocating therapy with remedies that produce effect differing from those of the diseases treated; also called 'allopathy', 'western medicine', 'regular medicine', 'conventional medicine', 'mainstream medicine', 'orthodox medicine', or 'cosmopolitan medicine'.

d. *Traditional Oriental Medicine* - the traditional medicine that originated in China, and is characterized by holism and treatment based on pattern identification/syndrome differentiation

e. *Alternative Health Care Modalities* - refer to other forms of non-allopathic, occasionally non-indigenous or imported healing methods, though not necessarily practiced for centuries nor handed down from one generation to another, includes reflexology, acupuncture, massage, acupressure, chiropractic, nutritional therapy, yoga, tai chi, qi gong, prayer, reiki, pranic healing, mindfulness meditation, biofeedback, hypnosis, dance and other movement therapies, art and music therapy and other similar methods.

f. *Assessment* - the systematic collection and interpretation of information based on acupuncture principles.

g. *Acupuncture* - a comprehensive system of healthcare using traditional Chinese medical theory and its unique methods of diagnosis and treatments, for the promotion, maintenance and restoration of health and the prevention of disease. Its treatments techniques include, but are limited to, the insertion of acupuncture needles through the skin and the use of other biophysical methods, e.g. the use of heat, oriental massage techniques electrical stimulation, herbal supplemental therapies, dietary guidelines, breathing techniques, exercise, cupping, dermal friction, and acupressure based on traditional Chinese medical principles.

h. *National Certification* - process of issuing certificates requiring education and testing that assures the competency of practitioners and trainers, administered by PITAHC and other PITAHC accredited institutions.

i. *National Accreditation* - process of issuing certificates to training programs, centers and clinics

j. **DELIMITATION**

For the non-medical acupuncturist, the following competencies are not included in the PITAHC Competency Standards for Acupuncture and will require other additional qualifications/certification for practice:

- 1) Biomedicine diagnosis
- 2) Correlating laboratory findings

- 3) Prescribing drugs
- 4) Analyzing laboratory test on acupuncture related treatment
- 5) Performing new/advanced acupuncture treatment methods (e.g. laser, intracutaneous needling, cosmetic)
- 6) Conducting clinical and/or experimental acupuncture-related research activities

For the medical acupuncturist, the following competencies are not included in the PITAHC Competency Standards for Acupuncture and will require other additional qualifications/ certification for practice;

- 1) Performing new/advanced acupuncture treatment methods (e.g. laser, intracutaneous needling, cosmetic)
- 2) Conducting clinical and/or experimental acupuncture-related .research activities

k. *Code of Ethics* - a summary of the standards by which acupuncturists agree to conduct their practice and is a declaration of the general principles of acceptable, ethical, professional behavior.

I. *Training Program* - systematic, formal training on the knowledge and practice of acupuncture.

m. *Community Based Health Programs (CBHP)* - health programs which include acupuncture as one of its programs and services, serving primarily the poor, the vulnerable sectors and marginalized communities.

n. *Acupuncture Training Center*- a training facility intended for the formal education of students in acupuncture and practice

o. *Community Based Acupuncture Training Center*- an acupuncture training center for PITAHC accredited community based health programs.

p. *Acupuncture Clinic* - a health center facility intended for the diagnosis and treatment of patients through acupuncture

q. *Community Based Acupuncture Clinic*- an acupuncture clinic for PITAHC accredited community based health programs

r. *Portfolio Assessment* - evaluation of documents submitted as evidences of experiences such as acupuncture training, work contract, certification from employers or agencies and other similar documents for review by PITAHC.

s. *Medical Acupuncturist* - a practitioner of acupuncture who has also been licensed by the Philippines' Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) to practice medicine in the Philippines as a physician.

RULE II Accreditation of Training Programs

ARTICLE 6

All training centers offering courses for acupuncture are required to register their

course modules based on PITAHC Competency Standard in line with the policy of ensuring the quality of programs and courses in all institutions offering or intending to offer traditional and alternative health care courses. Program accreditation applies to mandatory compliance with minimum standards of all traditional and alternative health care courses including programs/courses being offered by public and private training institutions.

ARTICLE 7

The application for accreditation of Acupuncture programs may be filed at the PITAHC where the Acupuncture Training programs shall be evaluated and the National Certification Assessment shall be conducted.

ARTICLE 8

The PITAHC shall do monitoring of the continuous compliance by the Training Centers with the minimum requirements of PITAHC established standard.

RULE III Training Centers of Acupuncture

ARTICLE 9

Requirements for the Training Centers

The following requirements for the accreditation of Training Centers shall be submitted to PITAHC

9.1 Acupuncture Training Center

9.1.1 Facilities and Equipment

9.1.1.1 One well ventilated and lighted classroom complete with audio/ visual equipment with desks, writing boards teaching materials that can accommodate at least 20 persons at any given time.

9.1.1.2 One well ventilated and lighted prototype assessment/examination room with chairs and tables for students with the following instruments (like stethoscope, sphygmomanometer, thermometer, acupuncture needles, moxa, cups, sterilization equipment, etc.)

9.1.1.3 At least one well ventilated and lighted acupuncture clinic treatment room prototype that can accommodate at least 10 students at any given time.

9.1.1.4 Well ventilated and lighted auxiliary rooms such as:

- a. Comfort room
- b. Dressing room
- c. Waiting room
- d. An administrative office

9.1.1.5 A library with books and AV tapes and cassettes and CDs relevant to the courses offered (Refer to PITAHC Competency Standard on Acupuncture).

9.1.1.6 Training materials, equipment, and accessories based on training standards and course offering.

9.1.1.7 An original copy of the PITAHC Competency Standards of Acupuncture and PITAHC Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice

9.1.2 Personnel

9.1.2.1 The Acupuncture Training Center should have a regular staff, for its academic training program, a full time Training officer who must at least be a college graduate..

9.1.2.2 The academic and skills trainers should have passed the PITAHC Training of Trainers Competency Assessment.

9.2 *Community Based Acupuncture Training Center*

9.2.1 Facilities and Equipment

9.2.1.1 One well ventilated and well lighted room/area used as:

a. A classroom complete with audio/visual equipment with desks, writing boards and other teaching materials that can accommodate at least 5 persons at any time time.

b. An assessment/examination room with chairs and tables for clients equipped with the following instruments (such as stethoscope, sphygmomanometer, thermometer, acupuncture needles, moxa, cups, sterilization equipment, etc.)

c. A clinic treatment room that can accommodate at least 5 students at any given time .

9.2.1.2 Auxiliary room such as

a. Comfort room/dressing room

b. Waiting room/administrative office

9.2.1.3 A library with books with optional AV tapes, cassettes and CDs relevant to the course offered. (Refer to PITAHC Competency Standard on Acupuncture).

9.2.1.4 Training materials, equipment, and accessories based on training standards and course offering, as specified in the competency standards on acupuncture.

9.2.1.5 An original copy of the PITAHC Competency Standards of Acupuncture and PITAHC Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice