

**[ PITAHC CIRCULAR NO. 01 SERIES OF 2014,  
September 02, 2014 ]**

**GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTING R.A. 8423 IRR ON THE NATIONAL  
CERTIFICATION OF TUINA MASSAGE THERAPISTS AND  
ACCREDITATION OF TUINA MASSAGE TRAINING CENTERS AND  
CLINICS**

**Rule I  
Policy and Application**

**Section 1. Title.** The guidelines shall be known as the PITAHC Guidelines on the National Certification of Tuina Massage Therapists and Accreditation of Tuina Massage Training Centers and Clinics.

**Section 2. Purpose.** The Guidelines are promulgated pursuant to Rule VI, Promotion, Advocacy and Training, IRR of RA 8423, to prescribe the procedures and guidelines for the National Certification of Tuina Massage Therapists and Accreditation of Tuina Massage Training Centers and Clinics. The Guidelines promote continuous quality service improvement and strengthen the accountability of all stakeholders in the traditional and alternative health care practices.

**Section 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, promotion and implementation of traditional and alternative health care and its integration into the national health care delivery system.

**Section 4. Scope of Application.** These guidelines shall apply to the following:

- 4.1 National Certification of Tuina Massage Therapists
- 4.2 Accreditation of Training Programs for Tuina Massage
- 4.3 Accreditation of Training Centers for Tuina Massage
- 4.4 Accreditation of Tuina Massage Clinics

**Section 5. Definition of Terms.** For the purpose of these guidelines, the following terminologies 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 Medicine 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 effects 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 Chinese 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 tuina principles.
  - g. Tuina - an ancient Chinese therapeutic technique for treating and preventing diseases. It is a manipulative massage technique that employs the use of hands or any other part of the limb and applied to an acupuncture point or part of the body to maintain or restore yin and yang balance. It includes techniques such as pushing (Tui) and grasping (Na) of soft tissue, that are specific to the practice of TCM and are guided by its 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 program, centers and clinics upon compliance with a prescribed set of requirements
  - j. Code of Ethics - a summary of the standards by which tuina massage therapists agree to conduct their practice and is a declaration of the general principles of acceptable, ethical, professional behavior.
  - k. Training Program - systematic, formal training on the knowledge, skills and practice of tuina massage
  - l. Community Based Health Programs (CBHP) - health programs which include tuina massage as one of its programs and services, serving primarily the poor, the vulnerable sectors and marginalized communities
  - m. Tuina Massage Training Center - a training facility intended for the formal education and practice of students in tuina massage
  - n. Community-Based Tuina Massage Training Center - a Tuina massage training center for community-based health programs.
  - o. Tuina Massage Clinic - a health center facility intended for the diagnosis and treatment of patients through tuina massage
  - p. Community-Based Tuina Massage Clinic - a tuina massage clinic for community based health programs
  - q. Portfolio Assessment - evaluation of documents submitted as evidences of experiences such as tuina massage training, work contract, certification from employers or agencies and other similar documents for review by PITAHC

**Section 6. Delimitation.** The following competencies are not included in the PITAHC Competency Standards for Tuina and will require other additional qualifications/certification for practice:

1. Biomedicine diagnosis
2. Correlating laboratory findings
3. Prescribing drugs

4. Analyzing laboratory test on tuina-related treatment
5. Management of fractures and dislocation
6. Conducting clinical and or experimental Tuina-related research activities
7. Cranio-sacral assessment and therapy
8. Biomechanics and Kinesiology
9. Myotherapy 10. Chiropractic

## **Rule II**

### **The National Certification of Tuina Massage Therapists**

**Section 1. The National Certification Committee of Tuina Massage.** The National Certification Committee of Tuina Massage Therapist (referred to as the Committee) shall be created and shall be responsible for certifying Tuina Massage therapists. The PITAHC Director-General shall invite active practitioners in the field of Tuina Massage, valid only for the given period indicated herein, and as may be renewed by the Director General.

a. Composition

The Committee shall be composed of the following:

PITAHC Director General - Ex-officio Chairperson

Permanent Representatives:

PITAHC Advocacy and Training Division Chief

PITAHC Standard and Accreditation Division Chief

Representatives of the following sectors:

One Tuina massage therapist from the government sector

One Tuina massage therapist from the private sector

One Tuina massage therapist from massage training centers, schools or clinics

One Tuina massage therapist from the Community-based sector

The four (4) members representing the above-mentioned sectors shall be appointed by the PITAHC Director General and shall serve for two (2) years. Of the first appointed members, two (2) members shall have a term of two (2) years while the remaining two (2) members shall have a term of one (1) year. Any vacancy can be filled up provided they serve the unexpired term only.

b. The Standard and Accreditation Division shall serve as committee secretariat.

### **Section 2. Duties and Functions of the Committee**

- a. Develop and maintain the assessments based on the competency standards and code of ethics for Tuina Massage
- b. Issuance of training policies
- c. Accredit training programs, centers, schools and clinics for tuina massage
- d. Administer the national certification assessments for Tuina Massage competency standards
- e. Certify practitioners

- f. Revoke certification/accreditation of practitioners, training centers, schools, and clinics for tuina massage
- g. Rescheduling or canceling of assessments
- h. Accommodation of candidates for assessments with disabilities (persons with disabilities)
- i. Safeguard public trust by upholding the PITAHC Code of Ethics
- j. Develop and monitor databank of tuina massage practitioners, training center, schools and clinics
- k. Represent the interests of the tuina massage practitioners in the country
- l. Recommend commissioning of researches related to tuina massage and their effects and impact to public health

**Section 3. National Certification Assessment Content Outline.** The National Certification for Tuina Massage covers the knowledge and skills of each competency. It also covers the basic approaches of applied science.

### 3.1 Certified Associate Tuina Massage Therapist (CATMT)

To obtain this qualification, the following units of competency must be achieved:

- 1. Work within a holistic or integrated framework
- 2. Assess patient according to biomedicine framework – (CATMT)
- 3. Assess patient according to TCM framework – (CATMT)
- 4. Perform Tuina manipulative techniques
- 5. Perform Tuina massage for treatment of simple soft tissue injuries (CATMT)
- 6. Perform Tuina massage for treatment of common pediatric conditions (CATMT)
- 7. Perform Tuina massage for treatment of common adult conditions (CATMT)
- 8. Perform Tuina-related TCM modalities
- 9. Assist in Tuina massage clinic administration

### 3.2 Certified Tuina Massage Therapist (CTMT)

To obtain this qualification, the following units of competency must be achieved:

- 1. Work within a holistic or integrated framework.
- 2. Assess patient according to biomedicine framework – (CATMT)
- 3. Assess patient according to TCM framework – (CATMT).
- 4. Perform Tuina manipulative techniques
- 5. Perform Tuina massage for treatment of soft tissue injuries (CATMT)
- 6. Perform Tuina massage for treatment of common pediatric conditions (CATMT)
- 7. Perform Tuina massage for treatment of common adult conditions (CATMT)
- 8. Perform Tuina-related TCM modalities
- 9. Assist in Tuina massage clinic administration
- 10. Assess patient according to biomedicine framework – (CTMT)
- 11. Assess patient according to TCM framework – (CTMT)
- 12. Determine patient's TCM disharmony
- 13. Perform Tuina massage for treatment of soft tissue injuries (CTMT)

14. Perform Tuina massage for treatment of common pediatric conditions (CTMT)
15. Perform Tuina massage for treatment of common adult conditions (CTMT)
16. Manage Tuina massage clinic services
17. Continue professional development

**Section 4.** Applicants/Candidates for the National Certification for Tuina Massage (NCTM) must possess the following qualifications and submit the following requirements:

4.1 Candidates for Certified Associate Tuina Massage Therapist (CATMT) must be /must have:

- 4.1.1 A graduate of 240 hours Basic Health Skills Training with 600 hours OJT or equivalent course;
- 4.1.2 A graduate of 240 hours Basic Tuina Massage Training with 500 hours supervised Clinical Practice, and having properly managed, within a one and a half year period from the time the training started, no fewer than 30 different patterns of disharmony handled;
- 4.1.3 Demonstrated proper attitudes, values and ethical behavior to patient/ client, colleagues, and to the community; and
- 4.1.4 If the requirements for 4.1.2 is not met, the trainee must take a validation exam and or refresher course before meeting the entry requirements for number of patient visits

4.2 Candidates for Certified Tuina Massage Therapist (CTMT) must be/must have:

- 4.2.1 A Certified Associate Tuina Massage Therapist (CATMT) or completion of 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 abovementioned requirements;
- 4.2.2 Independent clinical practicum for at least 460 hours, having properly managed no fewer than 30 different patterns of disharmony covering any or all of the different categories mentioned under Certified Associate Tuina Massage Therapist level;
- 4.2.3 A graduate of 480 hours advanced Tuina Massage Training with 960 hours supervised Clinical Practice, having properly managed within a one and a half year period from the time the training started, no fewer than 60 different patterns of disharmony handled as Certified Associate Tuina Massage Therapist;
- 4.2.4 Demonstrated proper attitudes, values and ethical behavior to patient/client, colleagues, and to the community; and
- 4.2.5 If the requirements for 4.2.3 is not met, the trainee must take a validation exam and or refresher course before meeting the entry requirements for number of patient visits

4.3 Applicant must present an original copy of certificate of completion of the formal training from a PITAHC certified Tuina massage trainer or an accredited Tuina massage training center.

4.4 A Portfolio assessment is made for special cases of Filipino Tuina massage therapists trained abroad.

4.5 Applicant must present a valid health certificate duly issued by a government physician.