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**GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTING R.A. 8423 IRR ON THE NATIONAL
CERTIFICATION OF NATUROPATHS AND ACCREDITATION OF
NATUROPATHY TRAINING PROGRAMS, CENTERS AND
NATUROPATHY CENTERS/FACILITIES**

**Rule I
Policy and Application**

Section 1. Title. These guidelines shall be known as the PITAHC Guidelines on the National Certification of Naturopaths and Accreditation of Naturopathy Training Programs, Training Centers and Naturopathy Centers/Facilities.

Section 2. Purpose. These Guidelines are promulgated to prescribe the procedures and guidelines for the implementation of PITAHC IRR on the National Certification of Naturopaths and Accreditation of Naturopathy Training Programs, Training Centers and Naturopathy Centers/Facilities pursuant to Rule VI, Promotion, Advocacy and Training and Rule VIII, Codes of Practice of IRR of RA 8423. These Rules also serve the accreditation of naturopathy training programs, training centers and centers/facilities to pursue continuous 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 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 Accreditation of Training Programs
- 4.2 Accreditation of Training Centers for Naturopathy
- 4.3 Accreditation of Naturopathy Centers/Facilities
- 4.4 National Certification of Naturopaths

Section 5. Definition 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 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. *Traditional Medicine (RA 8423)* – the sum total of knowledge, skills and practice on health care, not necessarily explicable in the context of modern, scientific philosophical framework, but recognized by the people to help maintain and improve their health towards the wholeness of their being, the community and society, and their interrelations based on culture, history, heritage, and consciousness.
- d. *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'. **(This definition is based on the TAMA Law and that there are other definitions in other documents such as the Merriam Webster's Medical Dictionary where it is meant to refer to a branch of medical science concerned especially with the capacity of human beings to survive and function in abnormally stressful environments and with the protective modification of such environments; It is also defined as medicine based on the application of principles of the natural sciences, especially biology and biochemistry).*
- 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, naturopathy, homeopathy, homotoxicology, 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. *Biological Medicine* – is an art of healing which is, in its diagnostic and therapeutic efforts, oriented to living processes. It employs therapeutic measures in order to work in harmony with the natural capabilities of the organism for its own regulation, regeneration, adaptation, and self-healing. The chief guiding principle in biological medicine is preservation and support of the integrity of the human being. Biological medicine encompasses diagnostic and therapeutic measures which utilize all the materials, energetic, and informative possibilities of regulation and reactions of the human organism, in the attempt to mobilize its powers of regeneration and self-healing. (Franz Schmidt, "Biological Medicine")
- g. *Naturopathy* – is a distinct method of healing, underpinned by a philosophical perspective which recognizes that all living forms possess a self-regulatory, inherent ability for self-healing. This inherent ability, or vital force, operates in an intelligent, orderly fashion. Naturopathic approaches to health care are aimed at supporting and enhancing the body's own ability to heal itself.
- h. *Homeopathy* – is a philosophy of health and a formal system of diagnosis and of drug therapeutics that aims to stimulate the body's own natural healing capacity, developed by Samuel Christian Friedrich Hahnemann in 1797.

Homeopathy comes from the Greek *homios* ("similar") and *pathos* ("suffering" or "sickness"). The fundamental law upon which homeopathy is based is the law of similars, or "Like is cured by like" - in Latin, *similia similibus curentur*. The law of similars states that a remedy can cure a disease when a substance produces in a healthy person, symptoms similar to those of the disease. The law of similars enables the physician to select the one medicine (the *simillimum*) that the remedy induces.

- i. *Assessment* – the systematic collection and interpretation of information based on the principles of naturopathy
- j. *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.
- k. *National Registration* – process of issuing certificates of registration requiring education and testing that assures the competency of practitioners and trainers, administered by PITAHC and other PITAHC accredited institutions.
- l. *National Accreditation* – process of issuing certificates to training programs, centers and facilities.
- m. *DELIMITATION*: For the non-medical naturopath, the following competencies are not included in the PITAHC Competency Standards for Naturopathy and will require other additional qualifications/certification for practice:
 - 1) Biomedicine diagnosis
 - 2) Correlating laboratory findings
 - 3) Prescribing drugs
 - 4) Analyzing laboratory test on Naturopathy related treatment
 - 5) Performing new/advanced naturopathy treatment methods (e.g. intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous)
 - 6) Conducting clinical and/or experimental Naturopathy-related research activities

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

- 1) Performing new/advanced naturopathic treatment methods
 - 2) Conducting clinical and/or experimental naturopathy- related research activities
- n. *Code of Ethics* – a summary of the standards by which naturopaths agree to conduct their practice and is a declaration of the general principles of acceptable, ethical, professional behavior.
 - o. *Training Program* – systematic, formal training on the knowledge and practice of naturopathy
 - p. *Community-Based Health Programs (CBHP)* – health programs which include naturopathy as one of its programs and services, serving primarily the poor,

the vulnerable sectors and marginalized communities.

- q. *Naturopathy Training Center* – a training facility intended for the formal education of students in naturopathy and practice.
- r. *Community-Based Naturopathy Training Center* – a naturopathy training center for PITAHC accredited community-based health programs.
- s. *Naturopathy Centers/Facilities* – a health center facility intended for the assessment and management of patients through Naturopathy
- t. *Community Based Naturopathy Centers* – a health center facility for PITAHC accredited community based health programs.
- u. *Portfolio Assessment* – evaluation of documents submitted as evidences of experiences such as naturopathy training, work contract, certification from employers or agencies and other similar documents for review by PITAHC.
- v. *Medical Naturopath* – a practitioner of naturopathy who has also been licensed by the Philippines' Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) to practice medicine in the Philippines as a physician.
- w. *Naturopath* – a practitioner of naturopathy, not licensed by the Philippines' Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) to practice medicine in the Philippines as a physician, but who has completed the prescribed naturopathy course in a learning institution accredited by the PITAHC National Certification Committee for Naturopathy

Rule II

The National Certification of Naturopaths/Medical Naturopaths

Section 1. The National Certification Committee for Naturopathy. For the purpose of certifying Naturopaths, Medical Naturopaths, the PITAHC Director General shall invite active practitioners in the field of Naturopathy, hereinafter referred to as *National Certification Committee for Naturopathy*. The invitation is valid only for the period indicated herein, and 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:

Two (2) Medical Naturopaths

One (1) Naturopathic practitioner

One (1) Representative from an Accredited Naturopathy Training Center/School

One (1) Representative from a Naturopathy-related Consumer's Group/Health-Related NGO

The PITAHC Director General, upon recommendation of a Committee for selection of the Sectoral Representatives, shall appoint the five (5) Sectoral representatives. Of the initial appointive members, three (3) shall have a term of two (2) years and the remaining two (2) shall have a term of one (1) year. Any vacancy can be filled provided they serve the expired term of the vacancy.

- b. *Quorum and Vote.* Actions taken by the National Certification Committee for Naturopathy should be by a majority vote of the five (5) representatives from the above-stated sectors, in a meeting duly called for the purpose, attended by a majority of members (3 of 5 representatives), subject to the ratification and approval of the PITAHC Board. The PITAHC Director General shall cast his vote in the event of a tie among the sectoral representatives-members present in a meeting called for the purpose, there being a quorum.
- c. 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 Naturopathy
- b. Issuance of Naturopathy training policies
- c. Accredite training programs, centers, schools and centers/facilities for Naturopathy
- d. Administer the national certification assessments for competency standards for Naturopathy
- e. Certify practitioners
- f. Revoke certification/accreditation of practitioners, training centers, schools, and centers/facilities for Naturopathy
- g. Reschedule or cancel assessments
- h. Accommodate candidates for assessments with disabilities (differently-abled)
- i. Safeguard public trust by upholding the PITAHC Code of Ethics of Medical and non-Medical Naturopaths
- j. Develop and monitor databank of practitioners, training centers/schools and centers/facilities
- k. Represent the interests of both medical and non-medical Naturopaths in the country
- l. Recommend commissioning of researches related to Naturopathy services and their effects and impact to public health
- m. Review advertisement (quad media) of naturopathy practice and services

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

A. Certified Naturopath Practitioner (CNP)

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

1. Work within a holistic or integrated framework