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

PITAHC, March 19, 2008

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): https://batas.org/library/1938aa2e633e/

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 Alterna tive 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".

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b. Traditional and Alternative Health Care - the sum total of knowledge, skills and prac tices, 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 'allopathy1, '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 differen tiation

e Alternative Health Care Modalities - refer to other forms of non-allophatic, occasionally non-indigenous or imported healing methods, though not necessarily practiced for centu-r|es 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, mindfuiness 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 acu puncture principles.

g. Acupuncture - a comprehensive system of healthcare using traditional Chinese medi cal theory and its unique methods of diagnosis and treatments, for the promotion, maintp nance 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 eiectricai stimulation, herbal supplemental therapies, dietary guidelines, breathing tech niques, exercise, cupping, dermal friction, and acupressure based on traditional Chinese medical principles.

h. National Certification - process of issuing certificates requiring education and testinq 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

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programs and services, serving primarily the poor, the vulnerable sectors and marginalized communities.

n. Acupuncture Training Center- a training facility intended for the forma! 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 PlTAHC 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 PlTAHC.

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 PlTAHC 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 PlTAHC 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 PlTAHC 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

9.2.2 Personnel –A Community Based Training Center should have a Training Officer/trainer who should have passed the PITAHC Training of Trainers Competency Assessment.

9.3 Training Curriculum

ATraining Center's curriculum must be based on the PITAHC Competency Standard for Acupuncture.

ARTICLE 10. Accreditation of Training Center

A Certificate of Accreditation of a Training Center shall be issued to a person who or to an institution that submits required documents to PITAHC and complies with the following:

10.1 In case of incorporation or partnership, a certified copy of its Articles of Incorporation or Partnership duly registered with Security and Exchange Commission, or copy of its registration with the Department of Trade and Industry

10.2 Updated list of personnel and training staff with their respective bio-data and designation

10.3 A copy of municipal or city permits

10.4 Proof of ownership of the Training Center's premises or a copy of the lease/ rental agreement of the premises

10.5 List of training equipment

10.6 Fire safety inspection certificates

10.7Listoftrainrngprogramsoffered

10.8 Valid Health Certificate of all employees

10.9 A duly accomplished application form for Training Center Accreditation

10.10 Application Fee will be collected based on the national accounting ruies and regulations.

10.10.1 An application fee of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) shall be paid by the Acupuncture Training Center to PiTAHC

10.10.2 An application fee of three hundred pesos (P300.00) shall be paid by the Community Based Acupuncture Training Center to PSTAHC

10.11 Other documents as may be required from time to time by PITAHC based on Committee recommendation.

ARTICLE 11. Inspection and Approval of Training Centers

Upon receipt of the applicant's notice, a duly authorized PITAHC quality assessment team shall conduct inspection at the proposed training centers to determine compliance with facilities and operation requirements.

ARTICLE 12. Issuance of Certificate of Accreditation

If the applicant has satisfactorily complied with the minimum prescribed requirement, PITAHC shall then issue the Certificate of Accreditation with a PITAHC dry seal in favor of the applicant.

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ARTICLE 13. Grounds for Cancellation of Accreditation

Any of the following acts or omissions shall be sufficient ground for the cancellation of accreditation of a training center:

a. Falsification of documents.,

b. Failure to maintain the standards and requirements for accreditation as prescribed in these Guidelines.

ARTICLE 14. Validity of Certificate of Accreditation

A Certificate of Accreditation granted under these guidelines shall be valid for one (1) year from the date of issue for a newly accredited Training Center. Date of renewal shall be three (3) years thereafter subject to suspension or cancellation for cause to be determined by PITAHC.

ARTICLE 15. Non-transferability of Certificate of Accreditation

The Certificate of Accreditation of a Training Center shall be non-transferable. ARTICLE 16. Accreditation Fees

The accreditation fee shall be collected from those applicants who have complied with the requirements for accreditation. An accreditation fee will be collected based on the national accounting rules and regulation and may be changed anytime upon review of PITAHC Committee.

16.1 For Acupuncture Training Centers

16.1.1 An accreditation fee for new applicants of ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) for one year and an additional accreditation certificate fee of three hundred pesos (P300.00) shall be collected.

16.1.2 An renewal accreditation fee of three thousand pesos <p3,000-00) for="" three="" years="" and="" an="" additional="" accreditation="" certificate="" fee="" of="" hundred="" pesos="" (p300.00)="" shall="" be="" collected.

16.2 For Community-Based Acupuncture Training Centers

> 16.2.1 An accreditation fee of one thousand pesos (P1.000.00) and an additional accreditation certificate fee of three hundred pesos (P300.00) shall be collected from newly accredited applicants.
>
> 16.2.2 An accreditation fee of one thousand five hundred pesos (P1,500.00) and an additional accreditation certificate fee of one hundred pesos (P100.00) shall be collected from renewing accredited applicants.

ARTICLE 17. Renewal of Accreditation

The Accreditation shall be renewed on or before its date of expiration. The penalty fee may be changed anytime upon review of PITAHC Committee.

> 17.1 A penalty of five hundred pesos (P500.00) shall be charged per year for non-renewal by the Acupuncture Training Center.
>
> 17.2 A penalty of one hundred fifty pesos (P150.00) shall be charged per year for non-renewal by the Community Based Acupuncture Training Center.

RULE IV
Accreditation of Acupuncture Clinics
ARTICLE 18. Requirements for Acupuncture Clinics

The following requirements for the accreditation of Acupuncture Clinics shall be. submitted to PITAHC.

18.1.1 Facilities and Equipment

18.1.1.1 Well ventilated and lighted acupuncture treatment rooms with

- Practice/medical equipment (such as electro-acupuncture machine, timers, sterilizers, etc.)
- Clinics supplies (such as needles, cotton, alcohol)
- Beds appropriately designed for acupuncture/acupressure/ moxibustion/cupping treatment
- Communications equipment
- Acupuncture references
- Acupuncture meridian charts and/or models
- Patients clinical records based on the acupuncture competency standard
- Logbook of Patient Visits
- Administrative equipment and materials (such as clinic furniture)

18.1.1.2 One well ventilated and lighted prototype assessment/examination room with chairs and tables equipped with the following instruments {like stethoscope, sphygmomanometer, thermometer, weighing scale, timers, etc.

18.1.1.3Well ventilated and lighted auxiliary rooms such as:

- Comfort room
- Dressing room
- Waiting room
- An administrative office

18.1.2 Personnel

18.1.2.1 Acupuncturists in an Acupuncture Clinic must be:

a. PITAHC Certified Acupuncturists (CA)
b. PITAHC Certified Medical Acupuncturist (CMA)

18.1.2.2 A PITAHC Certified Associate Acupuncturist (CAA) or a PITAHC Certified Associate Medical Acupuncturists (CAMA) must be under the supervision of a PITAHC Certified Acupuncturist (CA) or a PITAHC Certified Medical Acupuncturist (CMA).

18.1.2.3ClinicReceptionist

18.2 Requirements for Community Based Acupuncture Clinics 18.2.1 Facilities and Equipment

18.2.1.1A well ventilated and lighted acupuncture treatment room with

a. Practice/medical equipment (such as electro-acupuncture machine, sterilizers, etc.)
b. Clinic supplies (such as needles, cotton, alcohol)
c. Beds appropriately designed for acupuncture/acupressure/ moxibustion/cupping treatment
d. Communications equipment
e. Acupuncture references
f. Acupuncture meridian charts
g. Patients clinical records based on the acupuncture competency standard

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h. Logbook of Patient Visits i. Administrative equipment and materials (such as clinic furniture)

18.2.1.2 Well ventilated and lighted auxiliary rooms such as:

a. Comfort room/Dressing room
b. Waiting area

18.2.2 Personnel

18.1.2.1 Acupuncturists in a Community Based Acupuncture Clinic should at least be a PITAHC Certified Acupuncturist (CA)
18.1.2.2A Certified Associate Acupuncturist (CAA) must be under the supervision of a PITAHC Certified Acupuncturist (CA)

ARTICLE 19. Accreditation of Acupuncture Clinic

A Certificate of Accreditation of an Acupuncture Clinic shall be issued to a person who or to an institution that submits required documents to PITAHC and complies with the following

19.1 In case of incorporation or partnership, a certified copy of its Articles of Incorporation or Partnership duly registered with Security and Exchange Commission, or copy of its registration with the Department of Trade and Industry
19.2 A copy of municipal or city permits
19.3 Fire safety inspection certificates
19.4 A duly accomplished application form for Acupuncture Clinic Accreditation
19.5 Application Fee will be collected based on the national accounting rules and regulation.
19.19.1 An application fee of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) shall be paid by the Acupuncture Clinic to PITAHC
19.19.2 An application fee of three hundred pesos (P300.00) shall be paid by the Community Based Acupuncture Clinic to PITAHC

19.11 Other documents as may be required from time to time by PITAHC Committee.

ARTICLE 20. Inspection and Approval of Acupuncture Clinics

Upon receipt of the applicants notice, a duly authorized PITAHC quality assessment team shall conduct inspection of the acupuncture clinic to determine compliance with facilities and operation requirements.

ARTICLE 21. Issuance of Certificate of Accreditation If the applicant has satisfactorily complied with the minimum prescribed requirement, PITAHC shall then issue the Certificate of Accreditation with a PITAHC dry seal in favor of the applicant.

ARTICLE 22. Grounds for Cancellation of Accreditation

Any of the following acts or omissions shall be sufficient ground for the cancellation of accreditation of an acupuncture clinic.

a. Falsification of documents.
b. Failure to maintain the standards and requirements for accreditation as prescribed in these Guidelines.
c. Illegal and immoral activities

ARTICLE 23. Validity of Certificate of Accreditation

A Certificate of Accreditation granted under these guidelines shall be valid for three (3) years thereafter subject to suspension or cancellation for cause to be determined by PITAHC.

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ARTICLE 24. Non-transferability of Certificate of Accreditation

The Certificate of Accreditation of an Acupuncture Clinic shall be non-transferable

ARTICLE 25. Accreditation Fees

An accreditation fee shall be collected based on the national accounting rules and regulation from those applicants who have complied with the requirements of accreditation, The accreditation fee may be changed anytime upon review of PITAHC Committee.

25.1 For Acupuncture Clinics

An accreditation fee of one thousand five hundred pesos (P1,500.00) and an additional accreditation certificate fee of three hundred pesos (P300.00) shall be collected from accredited applicants.

25.2 For Community-Based Acupuncture Clinics

An accreditation fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00) and an additional accreditation certificate fee of one hundred pesos s(P100-00) shall be collected from accredited applicants.

ARTICLE 26. Renewal of Accreditation

The Accreditation shall be renewed on or before its date of expiration. The penalty fee may be changed anytime upon review of PITAHC Committee.

> 26.1 A penalty of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) shall be charged per year for non-renewal by the Acupuncture Clinic.
> 26.2 A penalty of three hundred pesos (P300.00) shall be charged per year for non-renewal by the Community Based Acupuncture Clinic.

RULEV
The National Certification of Acupuncturists
ARTICLE 27. The National Certification Committee for Acupuncture

For the purpose of certifying acupuncturists, the PITAHC Director General shall invite active practitioners in the field of Acupuncture, hereinafter referred to as National Certification Committee for Acupuncturists. 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:

> One acupuncturist from the government sector
> One acupuncturist from the private sector
> One acupuncturist from acupuncture training centers, schools or clinics One acupuncturist from the CBHP

The four (4) members representing the above mentioned sectors shall be appointed by the PITAHC Director

General. Of the appointed members, two (2) members shall have a term of two years while the remaining two (2) members shall have a term of one year with anyone to be reappointed for another year to comply for the succeeding appointee until they have attained two years. Any vacancy can be filled provided they serve the expired term of the vacancy.

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

ARTICLE 28. Duties and Functions of the Committee

a. Develop and maintain the assessments based on the competency standards and code of ethics for Acupuncture
b. Issuance of training policies
c. Accredit training programs, centers, schools and clinics for acupuncture
d. Administer the national certification assessments for acupuncture competence standard
e. Certify practitioners
f Revoke certification/accreditation of practitioners, training centers, schools, and clinics for acupuncture
g. Rescheduling or canceling of assessments
h. Accommodation of candidates for assessments with disabilities (differently- abled)
i. Safeguard public trust by upholding the PITAHC Code of Ethics
j. Develop and monitor databank of acupuncture practitioners, training center, schools and clinics
k. Represent the interests of the acupuncture practitioners in the country
I. Recommend commissioning of researches related to acupuncture services and their effects and impact to public health

ARTICLE 29. National Certification Assessment Content Outline

The National Certification for Acupuncture covers the knowledge and skills of each competency. It also covers the basic approaches of applied science.

29.1 Certified Associate Acupuncturist (CAA)

29.1 Certified Associate Acupuncturist (CAA)

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

- Work within a holistic or integrated framework.

- Assess patient according to biomedicine framework – (CAA)

- Assess patient according to TCM framework – (CAA)

- Perform acupuncture-related modalities

- Assist in acupuncture clinic administration

29.2 Certified Acupuncturist (CA)

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

- Work within a holistic or integrated framework.

- Assess patient according to biomedicine framework-(CAA)

- Assess patient according to TCM framework-(CAA)

- Perform acupuncture-related modalities.

- Assist in acupuncture clinic administration.

- Assess patient according to biomedicine framework-(CA)

- Assess patient according to TCM framework - (CA)

- Determine patients TCM disharmony.

- Perform acupuncture treatment

- Manage acupuncture clinic services.

- Continue professional development.

29.3 Certified Associate Medical Acupuncturist (CAMA)

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

- Work within a holistic or integrated framework.

- Assess patient according to biomedicine framework within TCM environment.

- Assess patient according to TCM framework

- Perform acupuncture treatment.

- Manage acupuncture clinic services.

- Continue professional development.

29.4 Certified Medical Acupuncturist (CMA)

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

- Work within a holistic or integrated framework

- Assess patient according to biomedicine framework within a TCM environment.

- Assess patient according to TCM framework - (CAMA)

- Assess patient according to TCM framework - (CMA)

- Determine patients TCM disharmony.

- Perform acupuncture treatment.

- Perform acupuncture-related modalities.

- Manage acupuncture clinic services.

- Continue professional development.

ARTICLE 30. National Certification for Acupuncture (NCA) Applicant Candidates for Rational Certification for Acupuncture must possess the following qualifications and submit the following requirements:

30.1 Candidates for Certified Associate Acupuncturist must be:

> 30.1.1 A graduate of 240 hours Basic Health Skills Training with 600 hours OJT or equivalent course; and
> 30.1.2 A graduate of 240 hours Basic Acupuncture Training with 500 hours supervised Clinical Practice, and having properly managed, within a one a half year period from the time the training started, no fewer than 30

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different patterns of disharmony handled

30.2 Candidates for Certified Acupuncturist must be:

30.2.1 A Certified Acupuncture Associate or completion of 30.1.1 and 30.1.2 . requirements above:
30.2.2 Independent clinical practicum forat 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 Acupuncturist level
30.2.3 A graduate of 480 hours advanced Acupuncture Training with 960 hours OJT/internship of having properly managed, within a one a half year period from the time the training started, no fewer than 60 different patterns of disharmony handled as Certified Associate Acupuncturist

30.3 Candidates for Certified Associate Medical Acupuncturist must be:

30.2.1 A licensed physician of good moral character
30.2.2 A graduate of not less than 200 hours of limited training in acupuncture for Physicians as a technique for clinical work with 120 hours of Basic Principles and Theories, 80 hours of supervised Clinical Practice and properly managed, within a one and a half year period from the time and training started, no fewer than 30 different patterns of disharmony handled as Certified Associate Medical Acupuncturist.

30.4 Candidates for Certified Medical Acupuncturist must be:

30 4.1 A Certified Associate Medical Acupuncturist or completion of 30.2.1 and 30.2.2 requirements above; and
30.4.2 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 in Certified Associate Medical Acupuncturist level
30.4.3 A graduate of 1300 hours of full course of training in acupuncture for Physicians with 380 hours Basic Principles and Theories, 500 hours Clinical Work and 420 hours supervised Clinical Practicum having properly managed within a one a half year period from the time the training started, no fewer than 60 different patterns of disharmony different from those handled as Certified Associate Medical Acupuncturist

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

30.6 A Portfolio assessment is made for special cases of Filipino acupuncturists trained abroad.

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

30.8 Applicant must submit a duly accomplished Application Form for National Certification Examination attached with current photograph

30.9 Applicant must pay all the necessary fees.

ARTICLE 31. Application Fees

An application fee for national certification assessment of five hundred pesos (P500.00) shall be collected from applicants who have complied with the requirements for national certification assessment. For Community Based Health Programs, the application fee shall be three hundred pesos (P300.00). This application fee may be changed anytime upon review of the Committee.

ARTICLE 32. Place of Assessment

The assessment for Certification of Acupuncturist shall be conducted at PITAHC or at other venues as may be determined by PITAHC Committee.

ARTICLE 33. Result of Assessment

Results of the assessment shall only be "pass" or "fail". Results shall be published at the bulletin board or publication of PITAHC.

ARTICLE 34. Accreditation Fees

An accreditation fee of five hundred pesos (P500.00) and an additional accreditation certificate fee of three hundred pesos (P300.00) shall be collected based on the national accounting rules and regulation from those applicants who have complied with the requirements for accreditation. For Community Based Health Programs, the accreditation fee shall be three hundred pesos (P300.00) an additional accreditation certificate fee of three hundred pesos (P300.00) shall be collected from those applicants who have complied with the requirements or accreditation. The accreditation fee may be changed anytime upon review of PITAHC.

ARTICLE 35. Validity of Certificate of Accreditation

A Certificate of Accreditation granted under these guidelines shall be valid for three (3) years thereafter subject to suspension or cancellation for cause to be determined by PITAHC Committee.

ARTICLE 36. Renewal of Accreditation

The Accreditation shall be renewed on or before its date of expiration. A penalty of two hundred fifty pesos (250.00} shall be charged based on the national accounting rules and regulation per year for non-renewal by the acupuncturist. A penalty of seventy-five pesos (P75.00) shall be charged per year for non-renewal by the Community Based Acupuncturist. The penalty fee may be changed anytime upon review of PITAHC.

ARTICLE 37. National Certified Acupuncturist Service Provision

ARTICLE 37. National Certified Acupuncturist Service Provision

An Acupuncturist may offer his/her services in a wide variety of settings that includes:

a. Private practice clinics and offices
b. Salons, spas, resort, and cruise ships
c. Health clubs and fitness centers
d. Nursing homes and hospitals
e. On-site in the work place
f. In clients homes
g. Holistic health centers
h. Mobile acupuncture clinics

ARTICLE 38. Provisional Certification

PITAHC shall waive the requirements and grant a certificate to practice acupuncture to a resident Filipino applicant, who has been in acupuncture practice for a minimum of 3 years, residing in the Philippines at the time of passage of the Guidelines, who presents evidence satisfactory to the Accreditation Committee no later than 3 years upon effectivity of the Guidelines of successful completion of a PITAHC approved acupuncture training program.

ARTICLE39. Certification of Non-Filipino Acupuncturists

39.1 Certification by Endorsement

Endorsement means that the Philippines accepts another countrys licenses/ certifications if they meet certain

requirements. Certification by endorsement be made available upon application to the Accreditation Committee and payment of the appropriate application and accreditation fees. In order to qualify for certification by endorsement, an applicant meets the Guidelines for the . Registration of Foreign Professionals as per Resolution No. 90-547, Series of 1998 of the Professional Regulation Commission.

The applicant must provide;

a. Documentation of five years of licensed/certified practice of acupuncture with a minimum of 500 acupuncture patient visits per year with a minimum of 100 different patients;

b. A letter of good standing from the state of prior licensure or certification specifying the number of years of licensure/certification in his/her country or state; and

c. Documentation of current active certification in acupuncture in his/her country or state;

d. Documentation of successful completion of country or state approved Clean Needle Technique Course.

e. Every acupuncturist who is issued a Certificate by Endorsement to practice in the Philippines shall pay an application fee of five hundred dollars (US $500.00), an annual acupuncture certification fee of three hundred dollars f US$300.00) and an additional accreditation certificate fee of three hundred dollars (USS300.00) prior to beginning practice, and 30 days before the end of the year must submit a renewal form and fee for the next year.

f. A penalty of one hundred dollars (US$100.00} shall be charged per month of non-renewal by the acupuncturist.

g. The practice of the non-Filipino acupuncturist shall be under the supervision of a Filipino CA or CMA.

39.2 Visiting Teachers

a. An acupuncturist who has received a teaching position in a PITAHC accredited acupuncture training center who has at least five years experience as an acupuncturist, and who has established to the satisfaction of the Accreditation Committee that the applicant has the skills and training equivalent to the PITAHC competency standard in acupuncture may be issued a Limited Certificate, Visiting Professor. This Limited Certificate, Visiting Professor shall allow the acupuncturist to practice acupuncture only to the extent that such practice is incident to and a necessary part of the applicants duties as approved by the Accreditation Committee in connection with such faculty position.

b. The Limited Certificate, Visiting Professor shall be granted for a total of two one-year extensions upon annual review upon written request by the acupuncture training center.

c. Every acupuncturist who is issued a Limited Certificate, Visiting Professor to practice in the Philippines shall pay an application fee of two hundred dollars (US$200.00), an annual acupuncture certification fee of two hundred dollars (US$200.00) prior to beginning practice and an additional accreditation certificate . fee of two hundred dollars (US$200.00), and 30 days before the end of the year must submit a renewal form and fee for the next year.

d. A penalty of one hundred dollars (US$100.00) shall be charged per month of non-renewal by the acupuncturist

ARTICLE 40. Grounds for Cancellation of Acupuncturist National Certification

The following are grounds upon which the acupuncturists national certification may be revoked, canceled or suspended:

a. Violation of the PITAHC Code of Ethics and Standard of Practice for Acupuncture

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ARTICLE 41. Effectivity

These Guidelines shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation. All issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Memorandum Circular are hereby suspended or amended accordingly.

(SGD.) JUVENCIO F. ORDONA, MD
PITAHC Acting Director General

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