



# Traditional Complementary and Integrative Medicine Practitioners Scope of Practice

Document Title:	Traditional Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) Practitioners Scope of Practice	
Document Ref. Number:	DOH/SOP/ TCIM- Practitioners/HCWS/V2/2024	Version: V2
New / Revised:	Revised	
Publication Date:	November 2024	
Effective Date:	November 2024	
Document Control:	DoH Strategy Sector	
Applies To:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All DoH licensed Healthcare Providers</li> <li>- All DoH Healthcare Professionals</li> <li>- All DoH authorized Health Payers</li> </ul>	
Owner:	Health Workforce Sector	
Revision Date:	October 2027	
Revision Period:	3 years	
Contact:	HCWS@doh.gov.ae	

## Preface

Traditional Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) encompasses a range of holistic healing methods, practices, and therapies that are rooted in ancient health systems derived from the cultures and traditions from different countries. TCIM can be practiced as complementary methods that support conventional medical treatments or as an integration of the best aspects of conventional medicine with evidence-based complementary medicine and therapies. This field includes practices from Traditional Chinese Medicine, Traditional Indian Medicine (Ayurveda), Traditional Japanese Medicine, Traditional Korean Medicine, Unani Medicine, and Hijama, among others.

Complementary Medicine refers to the services provided to support conventional medicine through traditional practices. Integrative medicine, on the other hand, combines the best of conventional medical practices with evidence-based complementary approaches tailored to each individual. This approach focuses on the patient's overall physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being.

The Department of Health Abu Dhabi acknowledges the importance of incorporating the well-researched traditional practices from different countries within the healthcare system. It envisions the utilization of safe and proven methodologies and practices as treatment options to enhance Western conventional medicine and subsequently improve the overall personal well-being. DoH regulates all aspects of traditional medicine practices in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi including facility licensing, health professional licensing, and medicinal quality control.

## 1. Definitions and Abbreviations

No.	Term / Abbreviation	Definition
1.1	Acupuncture	A healing system developed in China thousands of years ago. It encompasses a range of procedures that involve stimulating various anatomical points in the body (Meridians), using techniques such as penetrating the skin with thin metallic needles, which may be manipulated manually or through electrical stimulation.
1.2	Ayurveda	Also known as Traditional Indian Medicine, is one of the oldest medical systems in the world, originating in India thousands of years ago. It emphasizes the integration of the body, mind, and spirit to prevent and treat illnesses with herbs, therapeutic massages, and techniques such as yoga.
1.3	Chiropractic	A system of therapy specializing in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disorders of the neuro-musculoskeletal system and their impact on overall health and well-being. This approach places a strong emphasis on manual techniques, involving the manipulation or adjustment of the spinal segments and other joints in the body.
1.4	Conventional Medicine	A healthcare system in which medical physicians and other health care professionals (such as nurses, pharmacists, and therapists) treat symptoms and diseases using medication, radiation, or surgery. It is also called mainstream medicine or Western medicine.
1.5	DoH	Department of Health Abu Dhabi.
1.6	Herbal Medicine	A practice that uses herbs or herbal preparations derived from plants containing active substances for the treatment of various illnesses.
1.7	Hijama Therapy (Cupping)	Also known as cupping, is an ancient traditional healing practice that involves creating local suction on the skin, either intact or scarified. This mobilizes blood flow, promoting healing. The suction effect is generated using heat, such as fire, or mechanically with the hands or electrical pumps.
1.8	Homeopathy	It is a medical system where there is a belief that “like cures like” meaning that small, highly diluted quantities of medicinal substances are used to treat symptoms. Nevertheless, when these same substances are administered in higher or more concentrated dosages, they can produce these symptoms.
1.9	Integrative Medicine	Integrative medicine combines treatments from Conventional Medicine and Traditional Medicine that have high-quality evidence supporting their safety and effectiveness to promote whole-person physical, psychological, social, and spiritual well-being. It is also referred to as Integrated Medicine.
1.10	Moxibustion	Commonly used technique in acupuncture which involves burning of Mugwort (Artemisia plant) to warm certain Meridian points on the body to prevent diseases and promote well-being.
1.12	Naturopathy	It is a medical system that originated in Europe and supports the body’s natural ability to heal through dietary and lifestyle

		modifications, along with other therapies such as massage therapy, joint manipulation, and herbal medicine.
1.13	Osteopathy	A system of medical practice that emphasizes a holistic and comprehensive approach to diagnosing and treating musculoskeletal disorders. It involves the manipulation of musculoskeletal tissues, along with other therapeutic measures, to alleviate pain, promote health and well-being, and restore function.
1.14	Traditional Complementary Medicine	Traditional Complementary Medicine encompasses healthcare practices based on cultural beliefs and experiences that are not part of conventional medicine and have not yet been fully incorporated into the dominant healthcare system.  Complementary Medicine refers to services provided when non-mainstream practices are used alongside conventional medicine.
1.15	Traditional Chinese Medicine	A medical system that originated in ancient China thousands of years ago and is used to prevent, diagnose, and treat illnesses by stimulating the body's natural healing mechanisms. It includes Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, Nutritional Therapy, Meditation, Traditional Chinese Medicine Massage (Tui Na) and Restorative Physical Exercise.
1.16	Traditional Japanese Medicine	Also called "Kampo", it is a holistic therapeutic approach based on ancient Chinese Medicine. It tailors individualized treatments for each patient, depending on their overall condition and symptoms, with the aim of relieving pain and restoring harmony in body functions.
1.17	Traditional Korean Medicine	Traditional Korean Medicine is a therapeutic approach rooted in ancient Chinese Medicine, incorporating patient-centric Sasang constitutional classification and Saam acupuncture methods. It tailors treatments based on the patients' anatomical characteristics, temperament, and other traits.
1.18	Unani Medicine	It is an ancient Greek/Arabic medical system based on the concept of balancing the body's humors, which can become imbalanced or be restored need to be restored to promote healing. It is founded on four elements: air, water, earth, and fire, and four humors: blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile.

## 2. SOP Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- 2.1. Define the scope of services and competencies for Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) practitioners.
- 2.2. Outline the professional boundaries, accountabilities, and ethical and legal obligations of practitioners toward patients and society.
- 2.3. Serve as a reference to the healthcare workforce, healthcare providers, healthcare payers and governing bodies.

## 3. SOP Scope

This scope of practice applies to all DoH-licensed healthcare professionals providing Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine services in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi including but not limited to:

- 3.1 Acupuncture Practitioners
- 3.2 Ayurveda Practitioners
- 3.3 Chiropractor Practitioners
- 3.4 Herbal/Oriental Medicine Practitioners
- 3.5 Naturopathy Practitioners
- 3.6 Homeopathy Practitioners
- 3.7 Osteopathy Practitioners
- 3.8 Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Practitioners
- 3.9 Traditional Japanese Medicine 'Kampo' Practitioners
- 3.10 Traditional Korean Medicine Practitioners
- 3.11 Unani Practitioners
- 3.12 Hijama (Cupping) Therapists
- 3.13 Massage Therapists (Ayurveda Massage Therapists and Traditional Chinese Medicine Massage Therapists)

## 4. Practice Settings

Registered DoH-Licensed healthcare professionals may practice in a variety of healthcare settings that provide Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine services, including:

- 4.1 General Hospitals
- 4.2 Specialized Clinics
- 4.3 Rehabilitation Centers
- 4.4 Medical Centers
- 4.5 Primary Healthcare Centers
- 4.6 Home Visit Services

## 5. Standard of Proficiency

### 5.1 General Proficiencies for Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) practitioners include the following:

- 5.1.1. Comply with Abu Dhabi and UAE federal laws, guidelines, and ethical principles; adhere to standards of professional conduct, as well as clinical practice protocols and guidelines published by national or international professional organizations.
- 5.1.2. Maintain valid Basic Life Support (BLS) certification.
- 5.1.3. Provide services in a licensed facility equipped with the necessary resources for provision of safe and high-quality care.
- 5.1.4. Treat patients with dignity and respect, demonstrating sensitivity towards cultural and religious beliefs while applying the highest levels of professionalism and ethical conduct.
- 5.1.5. Maintain competency within their scope of practice, recognize serious and life-threatening conditions, and ensure immediate referral of patients to emergency care.
- 5.1.6. Continuously update their knowledge and enhance their skills to meet relevant patient needs and ensure optimal patient care outcomes.
- 5.1.7. Respect any limitations in their scope of practice imposed by specific models of care in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and appropriately refer patients whose care requires interventions to conventional medical specialties.
- 5.1.8. Comply with Infection Control standards and regulations, including hand-hygiene practices.
- 5.1.9. Must not treat communicable diseases and must report reportable communicable diseases to DoH, and refer the patients to the relevant conventional medical specialty.
- 5.1.10. Comply with DoH patient informed consent standards and regulations. Explain the intervention, including alternative treatment options, risks, benefits, possible outcome, and complications.
- 5.1.11. Communication with the patient must be clear and comprehensive, at all levels of care, including patient education and post procedure instructions.
- 5.1.12. Maintain patient confidentiality and privacy, and comply with DoH patient confidentiality, medical records and information security standards and regulations.
- 5.1.13. Comply with DoH standards for the management and reporting of Adverse Drug Events, including adherence to DoH Standard on Reporting Suspected Adverse Drug Reactions and Adverse Drug Events Following Immunization. (23)
- 5.1.14. Report any medication errors or suspected quality issues related to the prescribed medicinal products and dietary supplements by Following the DoH standards and Regulations, as outlined in the DoH Standard on Reporting Medication Errors & Suspected Quality Problems Related to Medicinal Products and Dietary Supplements. (24)
- 5.1.15. Maintain comprehensive patient medical records.
- 5.1.16. Collaborate with other healthcare professionals in tailoring patient treatment plans and management strategies.
- 5.1.17. Engage in clinical research projects and innovation in the field of TCIM after obtaining approval from DoH Research Ethics Committee.

5.1.18. Maintain quality maintenance records of medical devices in use to ensure safety and quality.

5.2 Patient Care Proficiencies for Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) practitioners include the following:

5.2.1. Evaluate patients' medical conditions thoroughly by taking a complete past medical and surgical history, including medication history and conducting a physical examination. Order laboratory and radiological imaging for diagnostic purposes when necessary, and tailor treatment for each patient individually.

5.2.2. Evaluate the patient's response to treatment.

5.2.3. Prescribe medication within their scope of practice and in compliance with the DoH-approved products list and specifications.

5.2.3.1. Maintain TCIM prescriptions and prepared medications in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice guidelines specifications from the country of origin and UAE, ensuring safety and quality standards.

5.2.3.2. TCIM practitioners must not alter treatment protocols prescribed by conventional medicine physicians. They must be aware of herbal medicine effects, interactions, side effects, and contraindications.

5.2.3.3. Comply with national legislation regarding the advertising and selling of medical product preparations.

5.2.4. Safeguard and protect the health and well-being of children and vulnerable people. Upon initial assessment, act in the best interest of the child and advise the child's guardian to take the child to a hospital if the presented case poses a risk to the child's health or life. If the parents refuse to take the child to a hospital, report the case in compliance with child protection laws and regulations.

5.2.5. Apply scientifically approved interventions and procedures within their competencies and scope of practice. Do not perform surgeries or midwifery.

5.2.6. Utilize DoH-approved medical devices in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

5.3 The following section elaborates on Specific Proficiencies for TCIM professionals.

5.3.1. Acupuncture Practitioners:

5.3.1.1. Acupuncture involves the differentiation of syndromes according to the eight principles, Theory of Zang Fu (visceral manifestations), Theory of Meridians, Theory of Collaterals, Theory of Qi and Blood.

5.3.1.2. Activities in practicing Acupuncture include:

5.3.1.2.1. Auscultation and palpation measurements of the pulse.

5.3.1.2.2. Tongue and nasal olfactory examination and diagnosis.

5.3.1.2.3. Insertion of fine, sterile needles into specific acupuncture points along the body's meridians to encourage the normal flow of Qi through the body and clear any energy blockages. This can be performed with and without electrical stimulation, moxibustion, color, lights, lasers, scraping, different temperatures (hot and cold), or suction by cupping, whether wet or dry.

- 5.3.1.2.4. Breathing and other therapeutic exercises.
- 5.3.1.2.5. QI exercises.
- 5.3.1.2.6. Meditation.
- 5.3.1.2.7. Tui Na musculoskeletal manipulation techniques.
- 5.3.1.2.8. Acupuncture may be used as surgical anesthesia, provided the procedure is supervised by a licensed physician or dentist.

**5.3.2. Ayurveda Practitioners:**

- 5.3.2.1. Ayurveda is the Traditional Indian Medicine that involves the management and prevention of illnesses through lifestyle modifications and interventions using detoxification and natural therapies. Therapies include panchakarma cleansing, herbal treatments, nutrition, therapeutic massage, and yoga.
- 5.3.2.2. Activities in practicing Ayurveda include:
  - 5.3.2.2.1. Lifestyle modification advice, such as nutritional, dietary, and preventive changes.
  - 5.3.2.2.2. Education on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with Traditional Indian Medicine.
  - 5.3.2.2.3. Ordering laboratory and other diagnostic examinations, such as medical imaging (X-Ray) for diagnostic purposes.
  - 5.3.2.2.4. Physiological function tests.
  - 5.3.2.2.5. Stimulation of the vital points of the body (marma) and panchakarma.
  - 5.3.2.2.6. Provide assistance during prenatal and postnatal periods.
  - 5.3.2.2.7. Basic supportive care for mental health.
  - 5.3.2.2.8. Application of therapeutic yoga exercises, Pranayama breathing exercises and meditation and detoxification.
  - 5.3.2.2.9. Prescription and administration of herbal medicines and 'over the counter' medications consistent with Ayurveda practices and in compliance with the DoH-approved products list.
  - 5.3.2.2.10. Ayurveda therapeutic manipulation and massage of the musculoskeletal system. Including the application of bandaging techniques with herbal preparations or Ayurvedic oils.

**5.3.3. Chiropractor Practitioners:**

DoH published Scope of Practice for Chiropractor. (16)

**5.3.4. Herbal/Oriental Medicine Practitioners:**

- 5.3.4.1. Herbal medicine involves the use of herbs or herbal preparations derived from plants containing active substances for the treatment of various illnesses.
- 5.3.4.2. Activities in practicing Herbal Medicine /Oriental Medicine include:
  - 5.3.4.2.1. Lifestyle modification advice, such as nutritional, dietary, and preventive changes.
  - 5.3.4.2.2. Ordering laboratory and other diagnostic examinations, such as medical imaging (X-Ray), for diagnostic purposes.
  - 5.3.4.2.3. Physiological function tests.
  - 5.3.4.2.4. Prescription and administration of herbal medicines and 'over the counter' medications consistent with Oriental medicine practices and in compliance with the DoH-approved products list.

### **5.3.5. Naturopathy Practitioners:**

- 5.3.5.1. Naturopathy focuses on the promotion of optimal health using therapeutic methods to enhance the self-healing process (*Vis medicatrix naturae*).
- 5.3.5.2. Activities in practicing naturopathy include:
  - 5.3.5.2.1. Lifestyle modification advice, such as nutritional, dietary, and preventive changes, with recommendations of specific foods, food extracts, nutraceuticals, vitamins, amino acids, minerals, enzymes, botanicals and their extracts, and dietary supplements.
  - 5.3.5.2.2. Ordering laboratory and other diagnostic examinations such as medical imaging (X-Ray), for diagnostic purposes.
  - 5.3.5.2.3. Physiological function tests.
  - 5.3.5.2.4. Education on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with naturopathy practices.
  - 5.3.5.2.5. Naturopathic physical medicine and therapeutic exercise, including yoga.
  - 5.3.5.2.6. Naturopathic osseous and musculoskeletal manipulation.
  - 5.3.5.2.7. Electromagnetic energy therapy, Reflexology, Chromotherapy, Mud Therapy.
  - 5.3.5.2.8. Colon hydrotherapy.
  - 5.3.5.2.9. Hot or cold hydrotherapy.

### **5.3.6. Homeopathy Practitioners:**

- 5.3.6.1. Homeopathy practice follows the law of similarity, the direction of cure, the principle of single remedy, the theory of minimum diluted doses, and chronic disease therapy. It involves diagnosing and treating by prescribing substances that can produce similar symptoms, syndromes, and conditions in healthy individuals, thereby encouraging the body to combat the disease.
- 5.3.6.2. Activities in practicing homeopathy include:
  - 5.3.6.2.1. Lifestyle modification advice, such as nutritional, dietary, and preventive changes.
  - 5.3.6.2.2. Education on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with homeopathy practices.
  - 5.3.6.2.3. Ordering laboratory and other diagnostic examinations, such as medical imaging (X-Ray), for diagnostic purposes.
  - 5.3.6.2.4. Physiological function tests.
  - 5.3.6.2.5. Prescription and administration of homeopathic medicines and 'over the counter' medications tailored to each individual patient's condition, with awareness of medication effects, interactions and side effects, and in compliance with the DoH-approved products list.
  - 5.3.6.2.6. Homeopathic medicines must meet Good Manufacturing Practice guidelines and be manufactured according to a widely recognized homeopathic pharmacopoeia and DoH approved product list. They may be derived from mineral, zoological, botanical, chemical, or biological sources and can be available in various forms, such as powders, pellets, solutions, ophthalmic and nasal solutions, oral tablets or injectables, suppositories, ointments, gels, and lotions for topical use from homeopathic stocks or mother tinctures.
  - 5.3.6.2.7. All medications must have the original manufacturer's labeling, including identification information such as the expiry date, potency, and lot number, and

must be in an unopened package from a UAE-registered manufacturer.

- 5.3.6.2.8. If the practitioner is also DoH-Licensed as a physician, they may use sterile homeopathic medicinal products for injections in accordance with their scope of practice and training expertise.

### **5.3.7. Osteopathy Practitioners:**

- 5.3.7.1. Osteopathy focuses on the role of the musculoskeletal system (skeleton, muscles, joints, soft tissues) as well as the internal organs in health and disease, linking the structure of the body to its functions. (Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine)
- 5.3.7.2. Activities in practicing Osteopathy:
  - 5.3.7.2.1. Education on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with osteopathic practices.
  - 5.3.7.2.2. Ordering laboratory and other diagnostic examinations, such as medical imaging (X-Ray), for diagnostic purposes.
  - 5.3.7.2.3. Physiological function tests.
  - 5.3.7.2.4. Prescription and administration of traditional osteopathic procedures such as: Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, which includes (Cranial osteopathy, Functional adjustments, balanced ligamentous tension adjustments, Muscle energy adjustments).
  - 5.3.7.2.5. Electrotherapy, hot and cold hydrotherapy.
  - 5.3.7.2.6. Therapeutic exercises.
  - 5.3.7.2.7. General osteopathic techniques, including - Direct techniques such as high-velocity low-amplitude thrusts and articulatory methods; and indirect techniques, such as functional techniques, counter strain, balancing ligamentous tensions, ligamentous articulatory strain, and other balancing techniques.
  - 5.3.7.2.8. Myofascial and fascial release techniques.
  - 5.3.7.2.9. Still's technique.
  - 5.3.7.2.10. Cranial Osteopathy, including involuntary mechanism and visceral techniques.
  - 5.3.7.2.11. Reflex based techniques, including Chapman's reflexes, trigger points, neuromuscular techniques, and fluid-based techniques such as lymphatic pump techniques.
  - 5.3.7.2.12. Advice on dietary changes, food extracts, nutraceuticals, amino acids, vitamins, minerals, enzymes, botanicals and their extracts, in compliance with the DoH-approved products list.
  - 5.3.7.2.13. Use of therapeutic devices after obtaining training and experience in their safe use.

### **5.3.8. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Practitioners:**

- 5.3.8.1. Traditional Chinese Medicine focuses on health enhancement and treatment using unique theories and includes Chinese Herbal Medicine, Acupuncture and Moxibustion.
- 5.3.8.2. Activities in practicing Traditional Chinese Medicine include but not limited to:
  - 5.3.8.2.1. Education on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with Traditional Chinese Medicine practices.
  - 5.3.8.2.2. Ordering laboratory and other diagnostic examinations, such as medical imaging

- (X-Ray), for diagnostic purposes.
- 5.3.8.2.3. Physiological function tests.
  - 5.3.8.2.4. Lifestyle modification advice, such as nutritional, dietary, and preventive changes.
  - 5.3.8.2.5. Prescription and administration of Traditional Chinese Medicines and ‘over the counter’ medications, in compliance With the DoH-approved products list. The clinic must have all products registered and available in compounding areas (internal pharmacy).
  - 5.3.8.2.6. Traditional Chinese Medicine therapeutic manipulation and massage of the musculoskeletal system (Tui Na).
  - 5.3.8.2.7. Insertion of fine, sterile needles into specific acupuncture points along the body’s meridians to encourage the normal flow of Qi through the body, clearing any energy blockages. This can be performed with or without electrical stimulation, moxibustion, color, light, lasers, different temperatures (hot and cold), or suction by cupping, following sterile techniques.
  - 5.3.8.2.8. Breathing and other therapeutic exercises.
  - 5.3.8.2.9. Qi exercises.
  - 5.3.8.2.10. Meditation.
  - 5.3.8.2.11. Cupping, following sterile techniques.
  - 5.3.8.2.12. Acupuncture treatments must be performed with sterile, disposable needles for single use only and must be disposed of properly, following DoH medical waste standards and regulations.
  - 5.3.8.2.13. Clinics may maintain a sterile, disposable supply of massage oil, moxibustion, cups, and disposable acupuncture needles.

### **5.3.9. Traditional Japanese Medicine Practitioners:**

- 5.3.9.1. Traditional Japanese Medicine, also called “Kampo,” is a holistic therapeutic approach based on ancient Chinese Medicine that tailors an individualized treatment for each patient depending on their overall condition and symptoms, aiming to relieve pain and restore harmony in body functions. This practice involves examining the amount and the distribution of Ki (Vital Energy), Ketsu (Blood), Sui (Body Fluids), and Kampo Diagnosis (Sho).
- 5.3.9.2. TJM practitioners include Kampo Doctors, Acupuncturists, Moxibustion Practitioners, Massage Therapists (Anma), Judo Therapists (Sotai), Shiatsu Therapists, Chiropractors (Seitai), Herbalists (Yakushishi) and Qi Gong Instructors.
- 5.3.9.3. Activities in practicing Traditional Japanese Medicine “Kampo” include:
  - 5.3.9.3.1. Education on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with Traditional Japanese Medicine.
  - 5.3.9.3.2. Ordering laboratory and other diagnostic examinations, such as medical imaging (X-Ray), for diagnostic purposes.
  - 5.3.9.3.3. Physiological function tests.
  - 5.3.9.3.4. Lifestyle modification advice, such as nutritional, dietary, and preventive changes.
  - 5.3.9.3.5. Physician examination, including vitals such as temperature and pulse, refined palpation technique (fukushin) of the abdomen, tongue inspection, examining sensation, weakness, or sweating.
  - 5.3.9.3.6. Acupuncture using sterile techniques.

- 5.3.9.3.7. Prescription of herbal medicine (Yakushishi), Kampo Medicine, in compliance with the DoH-approved products list.
- 5.3.9.3.8. Shiatsu therapy.
- 5.3.9.3.9. Judo therapy (Sotai).
- 5.3.9.3.10. Qi Gong therapy.
- 5.3.9.3.11. Meditation and Massage therapy (Anma).

**5.3.10. Traditional Korean Medicine Practitioners:**

- 5.3.10.1. Traditional Korean Medicine is based on ancient Chinese Medicine and focuses on patient-centric Sasang constitutional classification and Saam acupuncture methods. It considers patients' anatomical characteristics, temperament, and other traits, which can be categorized into four constitutional types: Tae-eum, So-Yang, So-eum, and Tae-Yang. Each type is associated with specific appearance, personality, disease susceptibility, drug response, and physiological attributes. Treatment is tailored to the constitutional type rather than the symptoms.
- 5.3.10.2. The Saam technique is based on the 12 meridians for all physiological processes. Each organ has its own dominant element and energy type.
- 5.3.10.3. A team of TKM practitioners may include Hanui, Herbalists (Hanyaksa), Acupuncturists (Chimsulsa), Moxibustion Therapists (Tteumsa), Chiropractors (Cheongchugyogeongsa), Taegeuk Therapy Practitioners (Taegeuk-yobeobsa) Pulsologists (Maekjinsa), and Gongjindan Specialists (Gongjindansa).
- 5.3.10.4. Activities in practicing Traditional Korean Medicine include:
  - 5.3.10.4.1. Physician examination, including vital signs and pulse diagnosis based on pulse characteristics.
  - 5.3.10.4.2. Lifestyle modification advice, such as nutritional, dietary, and preventive changes.
  - 5.3.10.4.3. Ordering laboratory and other diagnostic examinations, such as medical imaging (X-Ray), for diagnostic purposes.
  - 5.3.10.4.4. Physiological function tests.
  - 5.3.10.4.5. Acupuncture based on the five elements—earth, metal, water, wood, and fire, and six types of Qi energy.
  - 5.3.10.4.6. Cupping.
  - 5.3.10.4.7. Moxibustion.
  - 5.3.10.4.8. Balance and Harmony.
  - 5.3.10.4.9. Herbal Acupuncture (bee venom), and Herbal Medicine in compliance with the DoH-approved products list.
  - 5.3.10.4.10. Meditation.

**5.3.11. Unani Practitioners:**

- 5.3.11.1. Unani Medicine is based on a Greek/ Arabic philosophy consisting of four bodily fluids: blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile. It mainly focuses on lifestyle modification changes and includes herbal medicine, nutritional and diet therapy, stress management, cupping, massage, and detoxifications in the form of diuresis, diaphoresis, purging, emesis and physical exercise.
  - 5.3.11.1.1. Unani practitioners may practice Hijama within the scope of their title.

- 5.3.11.1.2. Activities in practicing Unani Medicine include:
- 5.3.11.1.3. Lifestyle modification advice, such as nutritional, dietary, and preventive changes.
- 5.3.11.1.4. Ordering laboratory and other diagnostic examinations, such as medical imaging (X-Ray), for diagnostic purposes.
- 5.3.11.1.5. Physiological function tests.
- 5.3.11.1.6. Education on physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with Unani Medicine practices.
- 5.3.11.1.7. Prescription and administration of herbal medicines in compliance with the DoH-approved products list; cupping (wet or dry) employing sterile techniques, diaphoresis, purging, emesis, diuresis, Turkish baths, and therapeutic massages.
- 5.3.11.1.8. Hydrotherapy (hot or cold) and therapeutic exercises, as well as Heterotherapy or Antagonistic therapy.
- 5.3.11.1.9. Use of therapeutic devices after obtaining training and experience on their safe use.

**5.3.12. Hijama (Cupping) Therapists:**

- 5.3.12.1. Hijama therapy is a form of Arabic traditional medicine involving wet cupping, where blood is drawn by creating a vacuum effect from a small skin incision for therapeutic purposes to draw out stagnant, congested blood.
- 5.3.12.2. Practitioners must be aware of the physical, emotional, and spiritual alignment with Hijama therapy practices.
- 5.3.12.3. Practitioners must be aware of contraindications of wet cupping, such as bleeding disorders, amongst others.
- 5.3.12.4. Activities in practicing Hijama therapy include the application of cups, typically made of glass but also potentially made from bamboo, bone, horn or metal, using different temperatures (hot or cold) to create suction. This can be applied as wet or dry cupping to stimulate points or areas of the body, following sterile techniques.

**5.3.13. Therapeutic Massage:**

- 5.3.13.1. Therapeutic massage involves the application of soft tissue manipulation techniques (including skin, muscles, tendons, ligaments, and connective tissue) to improve blood circulation and reduce stress, fatigue, and pain.
- 5.3.13.2. Massage therapy may be prescribed by a physician in conjunction with other therapeutic modalities.
- 5.3.13.3. Traditional Chinese Medicine Massage (Tui Na) Therapy– Facilitates healing by regulating the circulation of blood and Qi (vital energy), combining the two hand techniques: Tui, to push, and Na, to lift and squeeze.
- 5.3.13.4. Traditional Chinese Medicine massage therapists must only practice under the supervision of a DoH - licensed Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner.
- 5.3.13.5. Ayurveda Massage Therapy- For detoxification and rejuvenation, known as panchakarma, where the whole body is massaged with large amounts of warm oil and herbs to remove toxins.
- 5.3.13.6. Ayurveda massage therapists must only practice under the supervision of a DoH-licensed Ayurveda Practitioner.

## 6. Specific Learning Requirement / Privileging Requirement

TCIM practitioners must remain competent within the context of their scope of practice. They must continually update their knowledge and skills to meet DoH licensing requirements for continued medical education and professional development.

## 7.Relevant Reference Documents

No.	Reference Date	Reference Name	Relation Explanation / Coding / Publication Links
1	2020	Standards for Outpatient Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Services Dubai Healthcare City Authority	<a href="https://www.dhcc.ae/standards/SD-HCO-001-01.pdf">DHCR Complimentary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Standards SD-HCO-001-01.pdf (dhcc.ae)</a>
2	2011	Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine Scope of Practice Dubai Health Authority	<a href="https://www.dha.gov.ae/Traditional-Complementary-and-Alternative-Medicine-Scope-of-Practice-DHA.pdf">Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine Scope of Practice DHA.pdf</a>
3	2022	WHO Regional framework for harnessing traditional and complementary medicine for achieving health and well-being in the Western Pacific	<a href="https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290619888-eng">9789290619888-eng.pdf (who.int)</a>
4	2022	WHO international standard terminologies on traditional Chinese medicine	<a href="https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-International-Standard-Terminologies-on-Traditional-Chinese-Medicine">WHO International Standard Terminologies on Traditional Chinese Medicine</a>
5	2022	WHO BENCHMARKS FOR OF AYURVEDA	<a href="https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/351475/9789240042674-eng.pdf?sequence=1">iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/351475/9789240042674-eng.pdf?sequence=1</a>
6	2022	WHO benchmarks for the training of Unani medicine	<a href="https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/351481/9789240042735-eng.pdf?sequence=1">iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/351481/9789240042735-eng.pdf?sequence=1</a>
7	2022	Unified Healthcare Professional Qualification Requirements (PQR)	<a href="https://www.doh.gov.ae/Unified-Healthcare-Professional-Qualification-(15).pdf">Unified-Healthcare-Professional-Qualification (15).pdf</a>
8	2023	Introduction to Professional Qualification Requirement (PQR)	<a href="https://www.doh.gov.ae/PQR-Introduction-Department-of-Health-Abu-Dhabi-(doh.gov.ae)">PQR - Introduction   Department of Health Abu Dhabi (doh.gov.ae)</a>
9	2023	DoH Standard for Clinical Privileging of Healthcare Workforce and Clinical Services	<a href="https://www.doh.gov.ae/Standards-resources-Department-of-Health-(doh.gov.ae)">Standards - resources - Department of Health (doh.gov.ae)</a>
10	2021	WHO Benchmarks for the Training of Acupuncture	<a href="https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/341723/9789240017962-eng.pdf?sequence=1">iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/341723/9789240017962-eng.pdf?sequence=1</a>
11	2019	Federal Law No. (5) of 2019 on Regulating the Practice of Human Medicine and its Executive Regulations.	<a href="https://www.doh.gov.ae/ar/about/law-and-legislations;">https://www.doh.gov.ae/ar/about/law-and-legislations;</a>

12	2023	Federal Law No. (6) of 2023 regarding the Practice of Some Medical Professions by Persons other than Physicians & Pharmacists	<a href="https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/about/law-and-legislations">https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/about/law-and-legislations</a>
13	2017	Ministerial Resolution No. (1448) of 2017 on Adoption of Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Health Professionals	<a href="https://mohap.gov.ae/app_content/legislations/php-law-ar-64/mobile/index.html">https://mohap.gov.ae/app_content/legislations/php-law-ar-64/mobile/index.html</a>
14	2014	Federal Law on the Prevention of Communicable Disease No. (14) of 2014 and its Executive Regulations	<a href="https://mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/legal-references">https://mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/legal-references</a>
15	2016	Federal Decree Law No. (4) of 2016 Concerning Medical Liability and its Executive Regulations	<a href="https://mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/legal-references">https://mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/legal-references</a>
16	2022	DoH Scope of Practice Chiropractor Practitioner	<a href="#">Scope of Practice   Department of Health Abu Dhabi (doh.gov.ae)</a>
17	2011	Traditional Japanese Kampo Medicine: Clinical Research between Modernity and Traditional Medicine-The State of Research and Methodological Suggestions for the Future. Evid Based Complement Alternat Med.	<a href="#">Traditional Japanese Kampo Medicine: Clinical Research between Modernity and Traditional Medicine—The State of Research and Methodological Suggestions for the Future - PMC (nih.gov)</a>
18	2015	Evolution of Medicine. Integrative Approaches for Health. Korea.	<a href="#">Evolution of Medicine - ScienceDirect</a>
19	2022	WHO Benchmarks for the Practice of Unani Medicine	<a href="#">9789240042698-eng.pdf (who.int)</a>
20	2012	DoH Policy on Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness in Healthcare Facilities.	<a href="https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/policies">https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/policies</a>
21	2024	DoH Standard for Provision of Home Healthcare Services	<a href="https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/standards">https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/standards</a>
22	2015	HAAD Guidelines for Patient Consent	<a href="https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/guidelines">https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/guidelines</a>
23	2024	DoH Standard on Reporting Suspected Adverse Drug Reactions and Adverse Drug Events Following Immunization.	<a href="https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/standards">https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/standards</a>
24	2023	DoH Standard on Reporting Medication Errors & Suspected Quality Problems Related to Medicinal Products and Dietary Supplements.	<a href="https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/standards">https://www.doh.gov.ae/en/resources/standards</a>