

Consultation Draft - AHPRA WA response

<i>Profession</i>	Chinese Medication
<i>Name of Draft</i>	Consultation Codes & Guidelines
<i>Final Submission Date</i>	9 January 2012
<i>Official Response</i>	chinesemedicineconsultation@ahpra.gov.au

These comments are provided by AHPRA WA following consultation with staff from Registrations *and* Regulation, Policy, Practice & Projects

4. Patient records:

- Should patient records be mandated to be in English or should there be a principle statement that in general records should be kept in English?

Yes. If the practitioner must have English language proficiency to be registered and the patient's records should also be able to be read by other health care professionals, then I think they must maintain the records in English. It could prove difficult if translation was required further down the track, in the case of an adverse event for instance,

Appendix 4: Draft Guidelines on Patient Record Keeping

Chinese medicine practitioners must create and maintain clinical records that serve the best interests of patients and that contribute to the safety and continuity of their Chinese medicine care. An adequate record of every patient consultation is an essential part of competent Chinese medicine practice.

The rationale for accepting that records may be created in another language is that the purpose of the record is to create an accurate record with adequate detail of all of all the relevant matters. This may be more effectively achieved in the practitioner's native language. The draft guideline (see page 60) states that if a copy of a patient's record is requested by the patient, or required by the Board or an authorised third party, it is the responsibility of the practitioner to provide at their own expense an English translation of the patient's records or cover the cost of this service. The Board is concerned, however, that:

- when a practice closes the burden of translation is shifted to the consumer
 - records should also be able to be read by any other healthcare practitioner
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- there is an explicit expectation in the National Law that practitioners have English proficiency.