

Consultation on draft guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice

28 May 2014

Responses to consultation questions

Please provide your feedback as a Word document (not PDF) by email to chinesemedicineconsultation@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on Wednesday, 23 July 2014.

Stakeholder Details

If you wish to include background information about your organisation please provide this as a separate word document (not PDF).

Organisation name
Yong MIAO
Contact information (please include contact person's name and email address)

Your responses to consultation questions

<p>Guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice</p> <p><i>Please provide your responses to any or all questions in the blank boxes below</i></p>
<p>1. Do you agree that these guidelines apply to all medicines prescribed and/or dispensed by Chinese medicine practitioners?</p>
<p>No.</p>
<p>2. TGA nomenclature guidelines require the botanical name to be used for herbal products in manufactured medicines. Pinyin and/or Chinese characters are more commonly used for Chinese herbal medicine prescription writing and dispensing. The use of Chinese characters alone makes it difficult for patients and other health practitioners to understand what medicine the patient is taking. For Chinese herbal medicine prescription writing, do you agree that pinyin or the pharmaceutical name should be used as an alternative to the botanical name, with the addition of Chinese characters where necessary? Is this guideline practical to implement? If you disagree, what alternatives do you suggest?</p>
<p>It is not practical to implement. Pinyin and/or Chinese characters are more practical.</p>
<p>3. Zhao et al (2006) identified that up to 27 per cent of Chinese herbs are sourced from multiple species,</p>

<p>making it impossible to accurately identify the species used if the herb is identified only by pinyin, Chinese characters or pharmaceutical name. Best practice is to label herbs supplied to a patient by the botanical name to allow for accurate reference to drug-herb interaction databases, accurate tracking of potential adverse events and the informed use of evidence from pharmacological research.</p> <p>Do you agree that herbs should be labelled according to their botanical name? If not what alternative do you recommend to address these safety issues and remove ambiguity in labelling?</p>
I don't agree.
4. Are the labelling requirements practical to implement?
They are not practical to implement.
5. Is the required information for prescriptions appropriate?
It is not suitable.
6. Do you agree with the circumstances in which a medicine may be supplied for self-medication?
Yes.
7. Do you agree with the limited role of dispensary assistants as outlined in section 5 of the guidelines?
Yes.
8. Are there any additional requirements which should apply to the management of a Chinese herbal dispensary?
No.
9. Does the sample label and prescription assist in understanding the requirements set out in the guidelines? Should any other examples be used?
I don't think so.
10. Taken as a whole, are the guidelines practical to implement and sufficient for safe practice?
They are not practical to implement.
11. Is the content flow and structure of the guideline helpful, clear, relevant and workable?
No.
12. Is there any content that needs to be changed or deleted?
Pinyin or Chinese characters should be the label instead of botanical names.
13. Is there anything missing that needs to be added?
No.
14. Do you agree with the proposed 12-month transition period and if so is this period adequate?
Yes.
15. Should the review period for the guidelines be two, three or five years?
5 years.

16. Do you have any other comments on the draft guideline?
No.

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