



Federation of Chinese Medicine &
Acupuncture Societies of Australia Ltd.
澳洲全國中醫藥針灸學會聯合會 (National Body)

FCMA

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Newsletter

May 2017

1. A joint submission for inclusion of registered acupuncturists to Medicare.

In October 2016, Dr Sherman Gu, Associate Professor Kylie O'Brien, and Prof T Chiang Lin developed a submission to the Australian government for registered acupuncturists to be given access to the same Medicare acupuncture items numbers as Medical Acupuncturists. The ATMS and ANTA agreed to be signatories to the submission. Associate Professor Kylie O'Brien will be meeting via phone with a representative of the government for preliminary discussions. The submission could be viewed on <http://fcma.org.au/en/publications/submissions>

2. Guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice

Guidelines for safe Chinese herbal medicine practice issued by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (CMBA) will be effective on the 12th November 2017. Please visit <http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines/Guidelines-for-safe-practice.aspx> for details to make sure your Chinese herbal practice including herbal dispensing is compliant with the Guidelines.

3. Submission for Reforms to the regulatory framework for complementary medicines: Assessment pathways

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Workshop under the Medicines and Medical Devices Review Complementary Medicines Reforms was held on the 24th March 2017 in Melbourne. Dr Sherman Gu attended the workshop on behalf of the FCMA. Due to the fact

that the Chinese medicine profession is nationally regulated via statutory regulation, FCMA recommends that: 1. a separate committee should be established solely for Chinese herbal medicines; 2. Chinese Pharmacopeia or Chinese Materia Medica (Zhong Hua Ben Cao) should be adopted by TGA for evaluation of Chinese herbal medicine products; 3. Scientific evidence for evaluation of efficacy of a product have consistency with the level of regulation of medicines; 4. All existing listed Chinese herbal products should be treated as grandfathered products. Details of the submission can be viewed on <http://fcma.org.au/en/publications/submissions>

4. 2017 FCMA membership renewal issues

Completion of the 2017 membership renewal work has now occurred, and we would like to thank you all for your cooperation in order for the renewal process of most members to take place. We advise you to pay particular attention to the following relevant procedures:

1). "2017 FCMA Renewal Form" (which includes a copy of payment proof from each branch):

There is a two-level management system between each Branch and the Federation. Members are required to pay their renewal fee to their branch annually which also requires signing the renewal form upon the renewal. Payment of the membership fee and a signed renewal form bring about a legal contractual relationship between each member and the Federation. It also entails that the member agrees and complies with the Federation and all its agreements with private health funds that are signed by the Federation in order to obtain eligibility of a consultation fee rebate.

2). A completed "FCMA CPD record card."

Each member must fill in and sign the record card accordingly as well as an explanation. According to CMBA registration requirement, all practicing Chinese medicine practitioners must complete a minimum of 20 hours of CPD per year, including at least four hours relating to professional issues with no less than 14 hours of formal CPD, and no more than 6 hours non-formal CPD.

3). Current professional indemnity insurance (PII)

The insured amount should be \$5 million or more with at least one mandatory auto reinstallation for all practicing members. FCMA has established partnerships with a well-known insurance company GSA, who are specially tailored for our members PII insurance packages. Please login the federation's Website link to purchase <http://fcma.org.au/en/joinfcma>

4). Current First Aid certificate.

Must be a Level 2 or Senior / workplace First Aid or HLTAID 0003 certificate, or Certificate of Attendance of first aid training issued by an organisation if you are also a registered health care practitioner such as nurse or chiropractor.

5). A copy of a valid certificate of registration in Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) (massage therapy membership exemptions). The digital copy can be downloaded from the official website of AHPRA.

5. Message from Medibank Private received on 10 April 2017

Medibank will be forwarding correspondence to Ancillary Providers nationally as part of the ongoing Payment Integrity Program. Medibank evaluates the service profile of recognised ancillary providers and compares their profile to their peers. Where significant variations are identified, the provider is sent a copy of their service profile along with a request from Medibank to meet or provide additional information to explain the variations. Medibank accepts there is a degree of industry variation and, when looking at service profiles, we take into account industry standards, national and state trends, demographics and different specialties. At the conclusion of this process, an assessment will be made as to whether the provider remains a recognised provider with Medibank.

6. Message from CMBA received on 19 April 2017

As you are aware, advertising compliance is an increasing area of focus for the CMBA and AHPRA as complaints about Chinese medicine have increased over the past financial year. Laws about advertising of regulated health services are important to support the public to make informed choices about their healthcare. AHPRA and National Boards' regulatory work includes acting on complaints, educating practitioners so they are aware of

what is not acceptable and taking action against unlawful advertising in the best interests of all consumers of regulated health services. Following the increase in complaints about advertising in the last financial year, AHPRA has refined its approach to dealing with advertising complaints. The CMBA and AHPRA are publishing a new Advertising Compliance and Enforcement Strategy on the 20th April 2017. The Strategy involves a risk based approach to supporting greater compliance with National Law advertising requirements. This occurs within a broader scope of work on advertising which includes educational campaigns, targeted education and engagement. The new enforcement approach will apply to all current and future advertising complaints, and is expected to be operational by early May. Importantly, the strategy explains that where continuing non-compliance is identified, the enforcement approach could result in the imposition of conditions on a practitioner's registration restricting how they can advertise. Resources to support the strategy are progressively being developed and published. AHPRA has also recently updated various online resources and created a dedicated 'Advertising resources' section on the AHPRA website, to make information about advertising more accessible and user friendly for practitioners and the public. AHPRA, in consultation with the CMBA, will continue to add more resources to this page over the coming months. Please visit <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Publications/Advertising-resources.aspx> for details.

Compiled by Secretariat of FCMA

24 May 2017