

# Quality Assurance Program Continuing Competency Requirements

Applies to Traditional Chinese Medicine Professionals and Acupuncturists

Revision July 31, 2023



College of  
**COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS OF BC**

	Formal Description	QAC Policy
<b>I. General Requirements</b>		
<p>The reporting period for meeting the requirements is every two years.</p>	<p><b>Key criteria:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compliance with the Continuing Competency Requirements Policy is required for renewing TCMA registration with the College.</li> <li>2. General objective is the intent of acquiring new knowledge for the practice of TCMA.               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Is the specified activity relevant to enhancing the competency of the TCMA registrant to practice?</li> <li>(b) Can the TCMA registrant articulate what they have learned relevant to improving their competence in a way that is clear and convincing to a group of their peers?</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. The closer the activities engaged in by the TCMA registrant are to the modal activity, the more likely they will be rated as meeting the criteria and the less likely that additional information will be required.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Each reporting period all eligible registrants will be in the selection pool for the random audit.</li> <li>2. Activities completed to fulfill requirements while on the Limited Register - Inquiry Committee or Limited Register - Registration Committee cannot be used towards the continuing competency requirements as they are required to do for another purpose. Similarly, learning completed for another purpose, e.g. courses count towards another diplomate of TCM study that a registrant is pursuing, cannot be used simultaneously for fulfilling continuing competency purpose.</li> <li>3. Providing supervision, and/or providing a workshop or presentation, teaching in a TCM program where the intent is to provide information or guidance to others, cannot be used towards the continuing competency requirements. However, some preparation time may be included if it fits in with the TCMA registrant's professional development plan.</li> <li>4. Continuing competency activities should be sufficiently evidence-based so as to be seen by a majority of TCMA registrants to enhance the registrant's practice of TCMA within the scope of practice specified in the <i>TCM Practitioners &amp; Acupuncturists Regulation</i> under the <i>Health Professions Act</i>.</li> <li>5. A minimum of 4 out of 50 credits must focus on ethical practice in TCMA. This may include a review of practice advisories, the Code of Ethics, ethical problem solving. The requirement could be met entirely through self-study. TCMA registrants cannot request a reduction in the required ethics credits.</li> </ol>

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<b>II. The Continuing Competency Program</b>		
<p><b>Practice Support Program (PSP)</b> <i>(Formerly Category D)</i></p> <p>A minimum of 4 out of 50 credits must focus on ethical practice in TCMA</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> Using Practice Support Program framework to develop individualized continuing learning plan of activities that can enhance the TCMA registrant's TCMA practice.</p> <p><b>Modal Activity:</b> TCMA registrants first use the Self-Reflective Assessment(Step 1) to assess the current practice situation to establish an individualized Professional Development Plan (Steps 2-5). TCMA registrants will set up learning objectives and enroll in learning activities related to the Career-Span Competencies (CSCs).</p> <p>After completing the learning activities, TCMA registrants then evaluate and reflect on the learning and how they impact their practice.</p> <p><b>Documentation:</b> Log sheet details. The log provides a summary of activities completed in chronological sequence, and which CSC's the learning activities are related to.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TCMA registrants must earn a minimum of 50 continuing education (CE) credits by completing all 5 steps in PSP by the end of their QA cycle.</li> <li>2. TCMA registrants can claim CE credits for using PSP components as follows:  <i>Step 1: Complete Your Self-Reflective Assessment (10CE credits)</i>  <i>Step 2: Setting Up Learning Objectives (10 CE credits)</i>  <i>Step 3: Planning &amp; Undertaking Learning Activities (1 CE per hour of activity)</i>  <i>Step 4: Evaluating Completed Learning Activities (5 CE credits per evaluation; and up to 20 CE total)</i>  <i>Step 5: End of QA Cycle Overall Evaluation (5 CE credits)</i></li> <li>3. Category "PSP" activities related to Career-Span Competency 1 through 6 can be counted as "Ethical" hours, and a minimum of 4 "Ethical" hours is required to be reported in a QA cycle for all TCMA registrants.</li> <li>4. To claim CE, TCMA registrants must complete the PSP in the order outlined in the Modal Activity (i.e. Step 1 to Step 5). TCMA registrants may update their Self-Assessment and Professional Development Plan during their QA cycle, but CE credits will not be awarded for re-doing each PSP step more than once. For example, there is a limit of 10 CE credits for Step 1 regardless of how many times a TCMA registrant retakes the Self-Assessment in a QA cycle.</li> </ol>

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<b>III. Qualifying Learning Activities for PSP Step 3</b>		
<p><b>Direct Participatory, Formal Programs</b> (Formerly Category A)</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> Learning of new information regarding the practice of TCMA</p> <p><b>Modal Activity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<b>Live</b> (including in-person or online) interactive workshop, seminar or training when attendance is taken and monitored;</li> <li>-Electronically offered continuing education when two conditions are met (i) attendance is taken and monitored, (ii) there is an assessment tool for the course.</li> </ul> <p>Typical characteristics are: the event is planned in advance; speakers have professional credentials in TCMA, biomedicine, health care; printed documentation is provided, registration fee is typically charged.</p> <p><b>Documentation:</b> Log sheet details. Printed documentation to be submitted to the College on request.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providers and full names of conferences, courses, workshops need to be identified on the log sheet.</li> <li>2. The activity must be within the framework of the definition of TCMA as per the <i>TCM Practitioners &amp; Acupuncturists Regulation</i>.</li> <li>3. Presentations or workshops provided by you, where the intent is to provide information or guidance to others, cannot be used to fulfill the requirement in this category.</li> <li>4. Hours documented need to reflect time attending educational activities.</li> <li>5. The Standard First Aid and Level C cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR-C) training that TCMA registrants complete to fulfill registration requirements cannot be counted as CE credits. The Professional Development Plan may include additional safety training activities which qualify for CE credits.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>Self Study</b> (Formerly Category B)</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> Keeping current on reading of regulatory, academic, and professional literature, and to reflect on how this information impacts on one’s practice of TCMA.</p> <p><b>Modal Activity:</b> Reading academic journals, professional publications, College publications and related material, including Bylaws, Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice and Practice Standards; reviewing one’s practice of TCMA with knowledge of the above documents to identify any areas in need of improvement; online and distance learning courses, and webinars, with no attendance taken and no assessment tool and/or certificate of completion.</p> <p><b>Documentation:</b> Log sheet details outlining the specific journals and materials and the dates read. Simply stating “read journals” will not be sufficient.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Details regarding specific journals and materials read are required on the log sheet.</li> <li>2. Online research is acceptable if articles are obtained or read on-line.</li> <li>3. Preparation for presentations or workshops you give can be included in this category if you learned something new and practice enhancing.</li> <li>4. Materials read must be within the framework of the definition of TCMA as per the <i>TCM Practitioners &amp; Acupuncturists Regulation</i>.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Structured Interactive Activities</b> (Formerly Category C)</p>	<p><b>Intent:</b> Interacting with a reasonably consistent group of colleagues in recognized healthcare disciplines on a regular basis for the purpose of learning, consolidating new knowledge, and incorporating new ideas and feedback from others into one’s practice of TCMA.</p> <p><b>Modal Activity:</b> Regularly scheduled or routine consultations with peers (colleagues who are licensed health professionals). For example, peer consultation and/or case conferences are acceptable; staff meetings where the focus is on administrative issues are not acceptable.</p> <p><b>Documentation:</b> Log sheet details.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Structured interactive activities are activities in which you have interacted with colleagues (e.g. peer supervision or study/training groups); provide the names of the groups or individuals with whom you participated.</li> <li>2. There are no requirements for structured activities to be in person (e.g., they could occur by phone, or virtually via Zoom).</li> <li>3. Supervision, presentations or workshops you provide, where the intent is to provide information or guidance to others, cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.</li> <li>4. Staff meetings where the focus is on administrative issues are not acceptable to fulfill this requirement.</li> <li>5. To meet the requirements for this category, these activities need to be done with licensed health practitioners.</li> </ol>