

September 3, 2019

To: All Insurance companies that offer natural health care coverage

Dear Sir or Mdm.,

The Canadian Integrative Medicine Association (CIMA), an organization that consists of licensed medical doctors from across Canada, strongly supports the inclusion of homeopathy as a benefit covered by health insurance companies.

CIMA represents doctors who integrate a variety of therapies, such as homeopathy, functional medicine, orthomolecular medicine, acupuncture, herbal medicine, neural therapy, and TCM, into everyday medical practice. Many of our members have taken extra training in homeopathy and have integrated it into general and specialist medical practice. Those of us that use homeopathy for our patients are aware of its effectiveness and safety.

It is apparent that Canadians want access to homeopathy and believe that it works, based on personal experience. At the time of this writing, an online petition to keep homeopathy in Canadian pharmacies has over 8000 signatures (change.org/p/college-of-pharmacists-of-british-columbia-keep-homeopathy-in-canadian-pharmacies). A 2019 Canadian consumer survey, conducted by Hill + Knowlton Strategies Canada, showed strong public support for homeopathy:

- A total of 1,500 adult residents were surveyed online across Canada, between March 22 and April 1, 2019.
- In the past year, est. **4.9 million** Canadian adults used homeopathic products.
- Homeopathy users are most likely to be **women**, between **25-44 years old**, university educated and parents of minor children.
- The most common reason for choosing homeopathy is because it is **natural**.
- **Satisfaction** levels with homeopathy are **high at 77%** and driven mainly by **perceived efficacy**.
- **Most HM users (76%) expect to use homeopathy in the future**. Interest in homeopathy among non-users is also significant at 20%.

The demand for homeopathy comes from Canadians with diverse ethnic backgrounds, many of whom have used homeopathy in their country of origin. There are more than 200 million users of homeopathy worldwide and many of them now live in Canada. Our multi-cultural Canadian public wants access to homeopathy.

Unfortunately, access to trained homeopathic practitioners is limited for many Canadians by the absence of insurance coverage. Although naturopathy is often listed as

an insurance benefit, most naturopathic doctors graduate with only basic training in homeopathy and require post-graduate courses to bring their skills to a standard that is high enough to successfully treat difficult medical conditions.

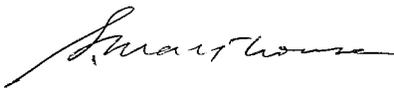
In some provinces such as Ontario, homeopaths are trained at independent colleges and are officially regulated. In most Canadian provinces, at this time, homeopathy is not regulated, but patients can usually determine the ability of the practitioner by other evaluators, such as type of practice, length of time in practice, and number of similar patients treated. These homeopathic practitioners provide the high level of skill required to successfully treat a variety of challenging health concerns and supply the type of healthcare that Canadians are obviously looking for.

Although homeopathy is a regulated profession in only one province, insurance companies could elect to provide coverage to all Canadian practitioners as long as there is a professional association governing the practice of its members. To confirm a basic standard of competency, insurance providers could confirm that the homeopath is registered with one of the provincial homeopathic associations that are accredited under the Canadian Homeopathic Association/ Association Homéopathique Canadienne, which currently include:

- Syndicat Professionnel des Homéopathes du Québec
- The Ontario Homeopathic Medical Association
- The Manitoba Homeopathic Association
- The Alberta Homeopathic Association
- The B.C. Association of Homeopaths

To make homeopathy more available to the public and to support freedom of choice in healthcare, the Canadian Integrative Medicine Association encourages insurance companies to expand their coverage for clients to include homeopathy. We would be pleased to further discuss the merits of homeopathy with representatives of your company at any time. Please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



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President, Canadian Integrative Medicine Association



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