



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

MH 34:24/8

6 April 2020

All registered TCM practitioners

MOH CIRCULAR 94/2020

**CIRCULAR ON SERVICES DEFERMENT AND REDUCTION DURING COVID-19
CIRCUIT BREAKER PERIOD**

On 3 April 2020, the Multi-Ministry Task force announced the implementation of very high safe distancing measures to reduce the risk of further local transmission of COVID-19. All non-essential activities (including businesses) will be suspended during this period. For TCM practitioners (TCMPs) practicing at TCM clinics and medical halls, **non-essential TCM services and treatment should be deferred from 7 April onwards for 4 weeks**, while essential TCM services can be continued.

Continued Provision of Essential TCM Services

2. Essential TCM services/treatment refer to those, if not provided or performed, would result in significant or rapid deterioration of the patient's condition, and potentially threatening their health and well-being. In addition, provision of TCM services as adjuvant treatment to patients with, e.g. cancer and chronic conditions is allowed. Please see [Annex A](#) for some examples of essential TCM services and non-essential TCM services.

3. Only TCM clinics and medical halls with registered TCMPs can continue to be opened for on-site or remote service. The provision of TCM services is limited to only TCM consultation and herbal treatment. As acupuncture, cupping, moxibustion, guasha and tuina treatment involve direct prolonged contact with patients, these TCM treatment modalities will not be allowed during this period.

4. **TCMPs who wish to practice during this period must submit to Ministry of Health (MOH) only one place of practice and declare that you abide to provide**

the TCM treatment and for conditions stipulated in paras 2 and 3 only. Failure to comply with these requirements will render the TCMPs liable for prosecution under the Infectious Disease Act (IDA) and TCMP Act. Please follow the below link or scan the QR code to submit the declaration.



www.go.gov.sg/moh-covid19-tcm-es-declaration

5. Where possible, any staff in the TCM clinic or medical hall who can telework should do so. On-site manpower should be kept to the minimum required to deliver the essential TCM services without compromising patient care and safety. TCM clinics and medical halls should continue to abide by previously announced safe distancing requirements.

6. If there are other suppliers or vendors providing essential supplies or supporting services for your essential TCM services to be provided, please request these companies to submit an application on <http://www.covid.gobusiness.gov.sg>. (please see Annex B for a list of Frequently Asked Questions)

7. For clarification on this circular, please email MOH_INFO@moh.gov.sg



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ESSENTIAL TCM SERVICES

1. Essential TCM services / treatment refer to those, if not provided or performed, would result in significant or rapid deterioration of the patient's medical condition, and potentially threatening their health and well-being.
2. Adjuvant treatment to patients with e.g. cancer and chronic conditions with recent relapses and/or poor control, limited to TCM consultation and herbal treatment only.
3. For follow-up of patients with stable chronic conditions, switch to tele-consult and medicine delivery, where possible. This should be done in accordance with section 4.1.1 para (c) of the TCMP Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG) on remote consultations in continuing care.

PLEASE NOTE: Patients with flu-like symptoms such as fever, sore throat, runny nose and cough are to be referred to Public Health Preparedness Clinics (PHPC) to focus our primary care efforts to better detect and manage COVID-19 infections.

Non-Essential TCM Services

1. Aesthetic and wellness services, including but not limited to, weight-loss management and hair growth treatment
2. Rehab and therapy services which are maintenance in nature
3. Management of patients with stable sports injury or related condition
4. Management of patients with stable skin conditions who are on long-term follow up



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Definition of essential TCM services

Q1: What is the definition of essential TCM services?

A1: Essential TCM services/treatment refer to those, if not provided or performed, would result in significant or rapid deterioration of the patient's medical condition, and potentially threatening their health. This can include TCM consultation and herbal treatment as adjuvant therapy for patients with e.g. cancer and chronic conditions with recent relapses and/or poor control.

For follow-up of patients with stable chronic conditions, switch to tele-consult and medicine delivery, where possible, in accordance with TCMP Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG) on remote consultations in continuing care.

Q2: Why is acupuncture not allowed?

A2: Acupuncture, cupping, moxibustion, guasha and tuina are all not allowed as these treatment modalities involve direct and/or prolonged contact with patients.

Q3: What if acupuncture is part of my adjuvant therapy to cancer patients or patients with chronic conditions?

A3: Acupuncture (including cupping, moxibustion and guasha) and tuina must be deferred during this period.

Q4: Am I allowed to make house calls to deliver essential TCM services?

A4: In line with the government's directive for everyone to reduce house visits, TCM house calls will NOT be allowed.

Q5: What chronic conditions am I allowed to see?

A5: You may continue to treat medical conditions which your patients have consulted you on a regular basis (for a period of more than 3 months or at least one course of TCM treatment), before this period.



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However, as long as the patient's condition is stable and immediate TCM consultation and herbal treatment are not essential, you should defer their treatment or switch to tele-consult and medicine delivery, where possible, in accordance with TCMP ECEG on remote consultations in continuing care.

Declaration of provision of essential TCM services by TCMPs

Q6: Must I declare if I am not practicing during this period?

A6: You do not need to declare if you do not intend to practice during this period.

Q7: What if patients come to me for non-essential TCM consultation and treatment?

A7: You should explain the rationale of such a restriction and advise them to defer such consultation and treatment.

Q8: Why am I allowed to practice at one place only?

A8: To minimise infection risk and cross-institutional transmission of COVID-19, TCMPs who wish to practice during this period for the delivery of essential TCM services are allowed to do so only at one place of practice.

Q9: What will happen if I do not declare and I continue to practice TCM, business as usual?

A9: Failure to comply will render the TCMPs liable for prosecution under the Infectious Disease Act (IDA) and TCMP Act.

TCM medical halls

Q10: Can TCM medical halls remain open during this period?

A10: TCM medical halls with registered TCMPs can remain open but TCMPs can only provide essential TCM services.



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SINGAPORE

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致：中医注册执业者

卫生部通告 **94/2020**

在阻断 COVID-19 传播期间推迟及减少服务的通告

多部门工作小组于 2020 年 4 月 3 日宣布实施更严谨的安全距离措施，以减少 2019 冠状病毒疾病(COVID-19)在本地进一步传播的风险。在此期间，所有非必要活动（包括商业活动）都将暂停。在中医诊所和药材店执业的中医师应该从 **4 月 7 日起，为期四周**，把对病人的非必要服务和治疗推迟，但必要的中医服务则可以继续。

持续提供必要的中医服务

2 必要的中医服务或治疗指的是：停止服务或治疗后将导致病人的病情急剧恶化，并可能威胁到他们的健康。此外，一些中医药治疗，例如给予患有癌症或慢性疾病病人的辅助性治疗也允许继续。（请参阅附件 A：必要和非必要的中医服务例子）

3 只有设有注册中医师的中医诊所和药材店，才能继续门诊或远程咨询会诊。但是，这仅限于中医诊断和中药治疗。由于针灸、拔罐、艾灸、刮痧和推拿治疗需要与病人长时间直接接触，在这段期间，这些中医治疗方法将不被允许。

4 有意在这段期间执业的中医师，必须向卫生部申报一个执业地点，并声明须遵守第 2 和 3 段所规定的中医治疗方法和条件。若违反此规定，中医师将可能在传染病法令（IDA）和中医注册法令（TCMP Act）下被起诉。请通过以下链接或扫描 QR 码申报及提交声明。



www.go.gov.sg/moh-covid19-tcm-es-declaration

5 若情况允许，中医诊所或药材店的任何工作人员都应该在家办公。在不影响病人护理和安全的情况下，在实质店面的员工人数应保持在提供必要服务所需的最低限度。中医诊所和药材店应该继续遵守之前宣布的安全距离要求。

6 若有供应商需要为您的必要中医服务提供必要的供应或支援服务，请要求这些公司上网 <http://www.covid.gobusiness.gov.sg> 提交申请。（请参阅附件 B：常见问题解答）

7 若对此通告有疑问，请发送电邮至 MOH_INFO@moh.gov.sg

卫生部医药总监
麦锡威副教授

以上文件以英语原文为准



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必要的中医药服务

1. 必要的中医药服务或治疗指的是：停止服务或治疗后将导致病人的病情急剧恶化，并可能威胁到他们的健康。
2. 中医辅助治疗（限于中医诊断和中医药处方）给予在近日病情反复或控制不良例如：患有癌症或慢性疾病的病人。
3. 若情况允许，稳定的慢性疾病管理可通过远程咨询会诊和药物快递进行。中医师应该遵守“中医执业者道德准则及道德指导原则”中关于远程延续诊疗的条文 4.1.1 (c) 段进行。

请注意：患有类似感冒症状（如发烧、喉咙痛、流鼻涕、咳嗽等）的病人都应该转诊到公共卫生防范诊所（PHPC），集中基层护理的资源更好地检测和管理 COVID-19 感染。

非必要的中医服务

1. 美容和保健服务，如减肥、护发生发治疗等
2. 维持性的康复治疗
3. 稳定运动损伤的管理
4. 稳定且长期跟进的皮肤病



常见问题解答

必要的中医服务的定义

问 1：必要的中医服务的定义是什么？

答 1：必要的中医服务或治疗指的是：停止服务或治疗后将导致病人的病情急剧恶化，并可能威胁到他们的健康。这也包括中医辅助治疗（限于中医诊断和中医药处方）给予在近日病情反复或控制不良例如：患有癌症或慢性疾病的病人。

若情况允许，稳定的慢性疾病管理可通过远程咨询会诊和药物快递进行。中医师应该遵守“中医执业者道德准则及道德指导原则”中关于远程延续诊疗的条文 4.1.1 (c) 段进行。

问 2：为什么不允许针灸治疗？

答 2：由于针灸、拔罐、艾灸、刮痧和推拿治疗需要与病人长时间直接接触，在这段时间，这些中医治疗方法将不被允许。

问 3：是否能用针灸治疗作为癌症或慢性疾病患者的辅助治疗之一？

答 3：基于以上原因，无论什么疾病，针灸(包括拔罐，艾灸 和刮痧)和推拿治疗都不允许使用。

问 4：我可以登门看诊提供必要的中医服务吗？

答 4：为符合政府呼吁民众减少探访和外出，登门看诊将不被允许。

问 5：什么样的慢性疾病属于被允许的范畴？

答 5：您可以继续为那些定期复诊（已接受 3 月或一个疗程以上治疗）的病人诊治。但是为了尽量减少与病人接触，只要病人的情况稳定，不需即时诊治，您应该推迟治疗，或按照“中医执业者道德准则及道德指导原则”中关于远程延续诊疗的条文 4.1.1 (c) 段，转用远程咨询会诊和药物快递的方式对病人进行延续诊疗。



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中医师提供必要中医服务的申报及声明

问 6: 如果我不打算在这期间为病人提供中医服务, 我需要申报吗?

答 6: 不打算在这期间为病人提供中医服务的中医师将无需申报。

问 7: 如果病人要求我提供非必要的中医服务, 我该怎么办?

答 7: 您应该向病人解释此措施的目的, 并推迟他们的治疗。

问 8: 为什么我只能在一个场所提供必要的中医服务?

答 8: 为尽量减少 COVID-19 的感染风险和跨机构传播, 在这期间提供必要中医服务的中医师将只能在一个执业地点行医。

问 9: 我可以在未申报的情况下继续照常行医吗?

答 9: 违反此规定的中医师将可能在传染病法令 (IDA) 和中医注册法令 (TCMP Act) 下被起诉。

药材店

问 10: 在这期间, 药材店可以继续营业吗?

答 10: 只有设有注册中医师的药材店可以继续营业, 但中医师只能提供必要的中医服务。



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