



College of
TRADITIONAL
CHINESE MEDICINE
PRACTITIONERS +
ACUPUNCTURISTS
of British Columbia

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2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Following are the questions and observations submitted to the College by the August 16, 2022 deadline, for response during the AGM. Some of the questions were similar and have therefore been consolidated here, by issue. We thank everyone who participated!

1. **Questions/observations regarding the language of PCE administration.**
 - a. **How many people participate in the Chinese administration of the PCE?**
 - b. **What is the CTCMA's plan to ensure that the Chinese PCE will continue beyond the three years subsidized by government funding?**
 - c. **What is the translation fee?**
 - d. **Will the examination fee for candidates writing in Chinese be reduced as a result of Ontario adopting the Chinese PCE?**

The College's intention is to continue to offer the Pan-Canadian Examinations in Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture (PCE) in Chinese beyond 2023 and, to that end, we are working with the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (CTCMPAO) and the Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists (CARB-TCMPA) on the development of a long-term strategy that will meet the needs of candidates hoping to write these examinations in either English or Chinese. The College is hopeful that the CTCMPAO's recent adoption of the PCE in Chinese will mean that further economies of scale can be gained.

A total of 101 candidates wrote the PCE examination in Chinese, in 2021. The examination was available in English only, in April of this year. The October 2022 administration, which will be available in Chinese, is still in the application stage and figures will be available at a later date. The translation fee for the Chinese examination is \$400 and each of the 101 candidates who wrote the Chinese language examination in 2021 paid this amount. The College collects the examination fees on behalf of CARB-TCMPA which, in turn, handles administration of the PCE.

Thanks to the government grant, the \$400 translation fee has been discontinued up to and including the 2023 PCE administration. Elimination of the Chinese translation fee *beyond* 2023, and continuing to keep the fees as low as possible, are two of the principles the College is working towards in order to not create a financial barrier for candidates. As it stands, the exam fees continue to be among the lowest credentialing exam rates in Canada.

2. Questions/observations regarding modernization and amalgamation.

- a. What is the timeline for the CTCMA to amalgamate with other healthcare colleges?**
- b. Why has amalgamation been delayed for so many years? Where does the responsibility for initiating the amalgamation process lie, with the Ministry or the healthcare colleges?**
- c. Which new regulatory college will CTCMA join?**
- d. What will the cost of amalgamation be, and who will pay for it? What cost items are included in the process of amalgamation?**
- e. What is the status of the update of the TCMPA Regulation (scope of practice), submitted by the CTCMA in 2015?**

In August 2020, BC's Minister of Health, Adrian Dix, released the [Steering Committee's recommendations for the modernization of health regulation](#) in our province. Included were recommendations concerning the commitment to cultural safety and humility, governance, efficiency/economy of scale (including amalgamation with one or more other colleges), general oversight, and the adjudication of complaints. We appreciate that two years have passed since this most recent update, and certainly understand registrants' interest. As we move into fall, the Ministry of Health continues its focus on the pandemic response.

The Ministry of Health does remain committed to reducing the number of health regulators as a means of improving regulatory effectiveness and creating economies of scale. As updated information is received, including with which colleges we would be amalgamated, we will share that with registrants. The College has not been made aware of the costs associated with amalgamation or how those costs will be covered.

It may be of interest that the four oral health regulators--dental hygienists, dental technicians, dentists, and denturists--were amalgamated as the British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals on September 1, 2022.

The College continues to engage with the Ministry of Health regarding the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists Regulation Amendment Proposal submitted in 2015. The Ministry has not indicated that the proposal would now be considered out of date. The College's position is that it continues to reflect the current practice of TCM and acupuncture within the new shared scope of practice/restricted activities regulatory model.

At such time as the College is updated on the status of modernization of healthcare regulation, the 2015 proposal will be reviewed to ensure it continues to reflect current practice standards. The responsibility for drafting and enacting Regulation lies with the provincial government.

3. Questions/observations regarding Board terms.

- a. What is the maximum term of office for Committee members?**
- b. Are there registrant Committee members who have served for more than 6 years? Where is this information available?**
- c. Does the term of office for one Board Committee count towards the term of office for another Committee?**
- d. Does the term of office for the Board count towards the term of office for a Committee?**

In accordance with section 16 of the College Bylaws, a registrant appointed to a Committee serves a term not exceeding three years on that Committee. A registrant may not serve more than two consecutive terms on any given Committee.

The term of office served on one Committee does not count towards the term of office on another Committee. Similarly, the term of office on the Board does not count towards the term of office on any Committee.

Per the *Health Professions Act* and the College Bylaws, there are no maximum term limits for public members serving either on the Board or on Committees. The College's practice has been to not exceed a six-year term for any individual public member unless an extension is required to ensure continuity of regulatory work and transition between new and old members.

Committee membership has been published on the College's website since 2019:

<https://ctcma.bc.ca/about/committees/>

As can be seen in the Committee membership listing on the College's website, none of the registrant members of Committees have served a term of more than six years.

4. Questions/observations regarding TCM/A education in BC.

- a. As a cost saving measure, some have said that schools are inviting newly registered practitioners to teach, a practice which could be a detriment to the profession.**
- b. What is the number of active teachers in BC TCM/A schools, and their level of training?**
- c. The CTCMA should strengthen and supervise the medical ethics curriculum of TCM schools.**

Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture educational institutions in British Columbia undergo the College's Education Program Review in order to gain recognition by the College. The Education Program Review is based upon the [Entry-Level Occupational Competency Profile for Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists](#).

Registrants are invited to refer to the competencies listed under Practice Areas 1. Interpersonal Skills, 2. Professionalism, and 3. Practice Management in the [Entry-Level Occupational Competency Profile](#).

The College's authority to regulate traditional Chinese medicine practitioners and acupuncturists does not extend to the employment practices of educational institutions.

Registrants should contact individual educational institutions regarding the number of teachers, professors, and associate professors employed by each.

Registrants should refer to the appropriate department within the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Training, such as the [Private Training Institution Branch](#), for policies regarding requirements for instructor qualification.

5. Questions/observations of an ethical nature.

- a. The CTCMA should regulate the organization of events that include presenters who may or may not be qualified to promote themselves as qualified practitioners.**
- b. Neither CTCMA registrants nor Board members should accept funds from foreign or other organizations in order to facilitate illegal activity or make representations in the name of CTCMA.**

The College is the regulatory body for traditional Chinese medicine practitioners and acupuncturists. It does not have authority to regulate outside organizations which are typically established under the [BC Societies Act](#) or the [BC Corporations Act](#) and regulated by other departments within the BC Government. As an institution, the College is politically unaligned.

All registrants should adhere to all federal and provincial laws, including the [Health Professions Act](#), and follow the standards set in the [Bylaws and Schedules](#), in particular Schedule A Code of Ethics and Schedule B Standard of Practice.

6. Observation of a regulatory nature.

- a. Do newer acupuncture methods such as Fu's needle and the Mini Ren needle need to be included in the regulations of the CTCMA?**

Section 5(c) of the [Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner and Acupuncturists Regulation](#) states that "(No person other than a) traditional Chinese medicine practitioner or an acupuncturist may insert acupuncture needles under the skin for the purposes of practising acupuncture." The Regulation does not distinguish between the types of acupuncture needles.

At this time, the College does not have specific limits or conditions regarding the use of Fu's needle or the Mini Ren needle.

Registrants should follow the safe procedures and processes in the [Safety Program Handbook](#) regarding the use of all types of needles.