



**College of Homeopaths of Ontario**  
163 Queen Street East, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1S1  
TEL 416-862-4780 OR 1-844-862-4780  
www.collegeofhomeopaths.com

Allison Henry  
Director, Health Workforce Regulatory Oversight Branch  
Strategic Policy, Planning & French Language Services  
Ontario Ministry of Health  
10th Floor, 438 University Ave,  
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

April 15, 2020

Dear Allison,

On behalf of the College of Homeopaths of Ontario (CHO) and its registrants, we want to express our appreciation for the government's comprehensive and thoughtful actions to mitigate the impact of an unprecedented health situation.

**By some estimates, almost two million times per year, Ontarians turn to homeopathy as part of their health care solution.** Homeopaths registered with the CHO have proven their ability to play a significant role in health care because of their unique set of attributes:

1. Solid academic and clinical training in homeopathy, many with hospital experience;
2. Supportive medical training and, in many cases, MD degrees (internationally trained) earned before becoming homeopaths;
3. Skills in patient communications, assessment, record-keeping and case management;
4. Understanding of and adherence to CHO standards and guidelines ensuring quality care for the public;
5. Subject to regulations in place for public protection including quality assurance and discipline.

As regulated health professionals already well versed in providing remote/virtual care, homeopaths are complying with directives issued by the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry. Their practices are already well adapted to remote virtual consultations. This expertise enables homeopaths to be proficient at remote case taking, analysis and homeopathic diagnosis. The result is that homeopaths continue to provide essential and urgent care during the current pandemic and substantially limit risk to both patients and health care professionals in other parts of the health care system.

**Homeopaths can help reduce the workload of hospitals, senior living facilities and critical care centres.**

CHO members demonstrate clinical expertise in the treatment of a wide range of acute and chronic diseases.

1. **As part of a team tasked with providing acute care to COVID-19 patients.**  
Homeopaths have substantial experience in the treatment of patients with respiratory ailments (cough, colds, influenza and viruses).
2. **As primary care providers during the pandemic** for the rest of the population whose needs would otherwise be adding to demands on hospitals and urgent care centres to avoid unduly straining an overburdened system.

**As part of care teams dealing with patients coping with issues other than COVID-19, homeopaths could lessen the burden on other providers.**

For example, a homeopath could provide primary care and/or mental health support within their scope of practice in an urgent care centre, thereby freeing up staff to be available for hospital shifts or support in nursing and retirement homes.

There are several regions in which many Ontarians depend on homeopathy. It is clear that homeopaths can play a role in reducing the pressure on the health care system in general and that they are doing so every day. For example, in Brampton, Mississauga, and the Greater Toronto Area including Scarborough, homeopaths play a significant part in the health care system and, as such, divert pressure away from institutions currently coping with COVID-19 and its fallout.

**Required Actions to Achieve this Benefit:**

**1. Add Homeopaths to Essential Services & Urgent Care**

The services of homeopaths and the dispensing of homeopathic medicines should be designated as essential services for patients. As primary care providers, homeopaths should be included in COVID 19 assessment centre teams. Homeopaths can provide essential and urgent care resulting in comfort and relief from the severity of symptoms that may accompany COVID-19. This will help to manage the immediate care needs of the patient and may minimize the potential for the worsening of the condition.

**2. Allow Homeopaths to Refer Patients Directly to a COVID-19 Assessment Centre**

Homeopaths are primary care providers in various communities. In some communities, a homeopath is the patient's first choice for care. As front-line health care providers with experience in assessing and treating a range of illnesses, including influenza and viruses, homeopaths can provide a valuable service in being a referral source directly to a local COVID-19 assessment centre.

In light of the challenges facing us all, it is vital to let no resource go untapped. Homeopaths can help, and they want to. We would be pleased to discuss the potential of this highly trained and dedicated group of health care professionals at your earliest convenience.

Best regards,



Basil Ziv, HOM  
Registrar



Mark Heller, MBA  
President

cc: Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care  
Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health  
Helen Angus, Deputy Minister of Health  
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health  
Stephen Cheng, Manager, Strategic Regulatory Policy Unit  
Thomas Custers, A/ Manager, Regulatory Oversight and Performance Unit  
David Lamb, Director, Capacity and Health Workforce Planning  
Douglas Ross, Senior Policy Analyst, Regulatory Oversight and Performance Unit