

Traditional Chinese Medicine – Federal and Provincial/Territorial Responsibilities

Federal Responsibilities

As part of the Health Products and Food Branch of Health Canada, the Natural Health Products Directorate (NHPD) is the regulating authority for natural health products (NHPs) for sale in Canada.

NHPs are regulated under their own specific regulations, the *Natural Health Products Regulations* (NHPR), which take into account the unique nature and properties of these products.

The NHPR set out the standards and requirements that must be met by all companies wishing to market NHPs in Canada. Health Canada assesses each NHP for quality, safety and efficacy before it is issued a product licence.

Health Canada is also responsible for issuing site licences to Canadian sites that manufacture, package, label and import NHPs.

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) products are a type of NHP regulated by Health Canada under the NHPR.

Provincial/Territorial Responsibilities

The practice of TCM falls within provincial/territorial jurisdiction.

The provinces/territories are responsible for developing standards for the practice of health professionals, including the practice of TCM.

The practice of compounding is also within provincial/territorial jurisdiction. Compounding is a process whereby a health care practitioner mixes or prepares health products to an exact specification tailored to a patient's needs. The activity of compounding and the product resulting from it are a provincial/territorial responsibility.