



College of Traditional Chinese Medicine
Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario

Ordre des praticiens en médecine traditionnelle
chinoise et des acupuncteurs de l'Ontario

SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED ON MEMBERS' CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION: FACT SHEET

Modified Date: October 2021



SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED ON MEMBERS' CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION: FACT SHEET

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide information about suspensions that may be imposed on members' certificates of registration. This document also describes what activities a practitioner whose certificate of registration has been suspended may and may not undertake.

Background

A certificate of registration can be suspended for a variety of reasons:

- The Registrar may administratively suspend a certificate of registration if, for example, the member fails to:
 - Pay the annual renewal fee, or other fees or penalties;
 - Provide information in their annual renewal application or other information required under the College By-laws;
 - Maintain professional liability insurance.
- The Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC) may impose an interim suspension or a suspension as a result of the practitioner not attending an independent medical examination.
- The Discipline Committee may order a suspension following a finding of professional misconduct or incompetence.
- The Fitness to Practise Committee may make an interim order or order a suspension (for an indefinite period of time) if a practitioner is found to be incapacitated.

A practitioner whose certificate of registration is under suspension is no longer a member of the College. However, the practitioner is still subject to the jurisdiction of the College and can be investigated for acts of professional misconduct. As a result, if a practitioner practises the profession while suspended, the College has the ability to investigate and prosecute the practitioner even though they are not a member of the College.

A notation of every suspension and the reason for the suspension is included on the College [Public Register](#).

Practising while suspended is an act of professional misconduct.



Restrictions and Obligations

1. If your certificate of registration is currently under **suspension, you CANNOT do any** of the following:
 - You cannot perform any of the controlled acts as set out in the *Traditional Chinese Medicine Act, 2006*, i.e.,
 - Performing a procedure on tissue below the dermis and below the surface of a mucous membrane for the purpose of performing acupuncture.
 - Communicating a traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis identifying a body system disorder as the cause of a person's symptoms using traditional Chinese medicine techniques.
 - You cannot hold out as a person who is qualified to practise traditional Chinese medicine and/or acupuncture in Ontario, i.e., engage in any behaviour that would allow a reasonable person to believe that you are (or remain) a member of the College);
 - You cannot use the titles of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioner and/or Acupuncturist, and/or the designations R. TCMP and R. Ac (or similar titles or abbreviations or an equivalent in another language) in any context;
 - You cannot supervise another member of the College (e.g., a student member); and
 - You cannot directly or indirectly benefit from the practice of the profession¹.
2. If your certificate of registration has been **suspended, you MUST**:
 - Make reasonable arrangements to **ensure continuity of care and your patient's best interests are protected**. This includes arranging/facilitating the transfer of the patient information (file) to another practitioner. If you intend to return to practice, documentation of such patient information may remain in the clinic, but must be available immediately if required by the patient or the College.
 - Return your certificate of registration (as applicable).

If applicable, practitioners whose certificates of registration are under suspension may:

- Render and collect outstanding accounts to patients;
- Meet with or report to patients for the purpose of advising of your suspended status, discussing outstanding accounts or to facilitate the transfer of the patient's files; and

¹ Unless full disclosure is made by the member to the College of the nature of the benefit to be obtained and prior approval is obtained from the Executive Committee.



Reinstatement

You cannot resume practice until you receive confirmation that the suspension has been lifted.

- If your certificate of registration was administratively suspended, you will have to apply for reinstatement and pay any fees required under the College By-laws. For information about how to apply for reinstatement, please contact the Registration Department at registration@ctcmpao.on.ca.
- If your certificate of registration was suspended as a result of an order of the ICRC, you must wait for written confirmation from the ICRC that the suspension has been lifted.
- If your certificate of registration was suspended as a result of an order of the Discipline Committee or because you were found to be incapacitated by the Fitness to Practice Committee, you must wait until the stipulated period of suspension has passed.

Questions or Concerns

To confirm a practitioner's registration status, please see the [Public Register](#).

Practising while suspended is an act of professional misconduct. If you have any concerns that a practitioner may be practising while suspended, please [contact](#) the College.



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