

## **Government Decree No. 40/1997 (III.5.) Korm.**

### **on the Practice of Alternative Medicine**

With regard to the practice of alternative medicine, the Government hereby issues the following Decree:

#### *Section 1.*

This Decree shall apply to the practice of alternative and to non-conventional (hereinafter jointly referred to as "non-conventional") therapeutic medicine. The practice of non-conventional therapeutic medicine is a health care activity (hereinafter referred to as "activity") intended to supplement conventional medical treatment and substitute them in specific cases.

#### *Section 2.*

(1) With the exception of medical information specialists and health insurance experts, persons with college or university level degree in medicine, clinical psychologists and clinical paediatric psychologists may practice non-conventional medicine upon completing and passing the examination of a training course specialising in alternative medicine (hereinafter referred to as "training course").

(2) The persons defined in Subsection (1) may only practice alternative medicine in the field indicated in the diploma certifying completion and passing the examination of the training course after the patient has received medical examination and/or treatment, or parallel with treatment while routinely consulting a physician for the specific field.

(3) The specialists with college or university level degree in medicine, clinical psychologists and clinical paediatric psychologists shall take the examination defined in Subsection (1) as part of state acknowledged curriculum of the institutions providing higher education in medicine.

#### *Section 3.*

(1) Persons having no health care training, but

*a)* with a degree in intermediate level education, and

*b)* with a degree in higher education not falling under the scope of Subsection (1) of Section 2

may practice alternative medicine upon completion and passing the examination of a training course teaching basic knowledge in medicine and rendering eligibility for the specific practice.

(2) The persons defined in Subsection (1) with health care training may practice alternative medicine upon completion and passing the examination of a training course rendering eligibility for the specific practice.

*Section 4.*

(1) This Decree shall enter into effect on the first day of the fourth month following its promulgation. Until the first day of the seventh month following this Decree entering into effect, non-conventional medicine may be practised without having to pass the examination prescribed in Subsection (1) of Section 2 and Subsections (1)-(2) of Section 3. The Minister of Public Welfare is hereby delegated to determine groups of non-conventional medicine, the sphere of persons eligible for practising, the individual groups of non-conventional medicine and trade rules in connection with practising and with professional training.

(2) Only the activities practised pursuant to this Decree and listed in the Decree by the Minister of Public Welfare shall be considered as non-conventional medicine.

(3)

(4) Until June 30, 2000 the examinations prescribed in Subsection (1) of Section 2 and Subsections (1)-(2) of Section 3 may be passed without having to attend the training course. Persons failing the examination shall be required to attend the training course to be eligible for re-taking the examination.

(5) The examinations described in Subsection (1) of Section 2 and in Subsections (1)-(2) of Section 3 shall be taken in Hungarian.

(6) Persons with a diploma issued, prior to this Decree entering into force, by Haynal Imre University of Medical Sciences or its legal predecessor certifying attendance and passing of the examination of "Basic Acupuncture Training" may practice acupuncture without having to attend and taking the examination of another training course. After the date of this Decree entering into force, acupuncture activities within the field of "traditional Chinese medicine" may only be practised upon completing and passing the relevant special examination.

(7) The competent county (Budapest district) of the Medical Officer's Service shall conduct routine inspections on the activities of practitioners of alternative medicine.