

OHA Guidance Document for Supervised Clinical Training Requirements under the Education Standards

Introduction

The Ontario Herbalists Association requires that students complete supervised clinical training hours as part of a formal education program. These hours may be acquired through a recognized program of study, or through an apprenticeship with an existing herbal practitioner.

The following is an outline of the requirements for this portion of a training program:

There are a minimum of **350** supervised clinical training hours necessary to meet the requirements of the OHA.

A clinical training hour must meet the following criteria:

Clinical teaching and practice shall consist of formal tuition and practical clinical training within a supervised clinical environment. Students wishing to study with an individual practitioner should apply for pre-approval from the OHA;

The teaching and practice undertaken within defined clinical hours must contribute to the achievement of the *Clinical Practice Learning Outcomes*;

Clinical teaching and assessment of the learning outcomes of clinical practice must be undertaken by appropriately qualified and experienced clinical supervisors;

Of the total number of clinical hours, 50% or more must be spent on clinical work in direct proximity to clients, including observing and note taking;

Of the total number of clinical hours, 50% or less may consist of student centered study under the direction of the clinic supervisor. Such activities must contribute to the achievement of *Clinical Practice Learning Outcomes* and may include such activities as field identification, practice of client intake skills, dispensary training, etc.

Hours which may be worked by a student in exchange for training, may not be considered as clinic hours. This includes duties such as stocking dispensary products, administration, etc.

Individual traditions may require additional Clinical Practice Learning Outcomes and these may result in additional Clinical Practice Hours **for that tradition only.**

Expected Clinical Practice Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the training period, students should be able to demonstrate the ability to engage effectively in each of the following:

Communication skills that empower and involve clients in decision-making and treatment options

Communication in a culturally sensitive manner, recognizing that words, ideas and actions may have different contexts within other backgrounds

Communication in a suitable and responsible manner with vulnerable populations such as the mentally or physically challenged, the elderly and young children.

Knowledge and compliance with the OHA Codes of Practice and Ethics, and understanding that these Codes are backed up by accountability to a professional body

Awareness, as far as possible, of their own conscious and unconscious motives in their interpersonal communications, and the skills to protect clients from whatever personal problems the student may have which might affect their treatment, and their ability to maintain focus on the patient.

The ability to take a case history, combining all the complex and subtle perceptions and sensory information being gathered, and understanding the interconnectedness of a person's life and contexts and how their past personal and family medical history can affect them.

Assessment of current signs and symptoms, previous and familial medical history, personal, family, social and occupational situations and lifestyle including diet.

Competence in and understanding of examination techniques according to the particular discipline being taught.

Formation of a valid initial working hypothesis based on their assessment framework in order to come to a safe and effective treatment rationale and plan.

Recognition that seeking the root of the disease is the primary aim, rather than the treatment of symptoms.

Formulation of safe and appropriate herbal recommendations and treatment plans which relate to the interpretation and analysis of information gathered during the consultation, and the assessment hypothesis.

Consistently able to develop and modify their working hypothesis in the light of further information and/or changes in the patient's condition.

Maintenance of case notes according to an agreed system which other practitioners using similar diagnostic concepts could understand.

Understanding that the potential for herb-drug and other interactions is always present and keeping this always in mind when assessing and recommending.

Consistently demonstrating safe practice in all aspects of client management and treatment.

Maintaining client confidentiality at all times, both verbally and in protection of files.

Recognizing and practicing personal reflection on clinical experiences in order to improve overall competence.

Ongoing self-care, and understanding of the reasons for adequately protecting their own health and setting sensible work boundaries

Understanding and compliance with all levels of government legal requirements under which herbal medicine is practiced

Understanding of the business aspects of creating and managing a dispensary (ordering and stock management, batch record keeping, health and safety, dosage, warnings, record keeping etc.)