



How-To Guide: Grandparented Registration with the CTCMPAO

About the CTCMPAO and Grandparented Registration

The term ‘acupuncturist’ became a protected title in 2013 and may now only be used by members of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (CTCMPAO). The CTCMPAO defines acupuncturists’ scope of practice as:

“The practice of traditional Chinese medicine is the assessment of body system disorders through traditional Chinese medicine techniques and treatment using traditional Chinese medicine therapies to promote, maintain or restore health.”

Note: The CTCMPAO does not consider every patient visit that includes acupuncture treatment to be a **traditional Chinese acupuncture** patient visit. See below for more information on Eligibility Criteria.

Chiropractors who practise acupuncture within the chiropractic scope of practice are regulated by the College of Chiropractors of Ontario (CCO) in accordance with [Standard of Practice S-017: Acupuncture](#) and are **not required to register with the CTCMPAO** in order to continue this practice.

Until **March 31, 2014**, chiropractors with an extensive history of practising **traditional Chinese acupuncture** may be eligible to apply for grandparented registration with the CTCMPAO. After the deadline, a chiropractor seeking registration with the CTCMPAO would be required to apply for a general class licence.

For more information about traditional Chinese acupuncture:

- CTCMPAO: [Policy 07 – Traditional Chinese Medicine Visit](#)
- CTCMPAO: [Standards of Practice](#)
- Canadian Alliance of Regulatory Bodies for TCM Practitioners and Acupuncturists: [Entry-Level Occupational Competencies for the Practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Canada](#)

For specific questions about the regulation of chiropractors or acupuncturists, please contact the [CCO](#) or the [CTCMPAO](#) directly.

Benefits of Grandparented Registration

There are three main reasons eligible chiropractors may wish to pursue a Grandparented Registration:

1. ***Use of the Title ‘Acupuncturist’.*** The term ‘acupuncturist’ became a protected title in 2013 and may now only be used by members of the CTCMPAO.
2. ***Access to ‘Acupuncturist’ EHC Benefits.*** Many insurers now specify that ‘acupuncture’ benefits will only be paid if the service is performed by a practitioner who is registered with the CTCMPAO. Chiropractors remain authorized to perform acupuncture, but their patients are now asked to submit these claims as ‘chiropractic services’. For more information, please see the OCA’s [Acupuncture Insurance Best Practices Guide](#).
3. ***Different Eligibility Criteria for Grandparented Registration than General Registration.*** Registrants in the general class must successfully complete a post-secondary program in traditional Chinese medicine acupuncture consisting of at least three years of full-time education or education that is of equivalent duration.



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If you are eligible to register in the grandparented class, doing so will allow you to forgo these educational requirements.

Challenges of Dual Registration

Chiropractors who wish to maintain registration with the CCO and the CTCMPAO simultaneously would have the following obligations:

1. ***Keeping apprised of all standards of practice*** of the two colleges and following practice guidelines and policies established by both colleges,
2. ***Annual registration fees*** up to \$2050 in the first year and \$1900 in subsequent years:
 - a. **CCO:** Annual renewal fee of up to \$1050 depending on class,
 - b. **CTCMPAO:** Application fee of \$150 (non-refundable) plus registration fee of \$850,
3. ***Satisfying quality assurance requirements*** for each profession:
 - a. **CCO:** Participation in the CCO's [Quality Assurance Program](#), which requires participation in CE (40 hours every two years), Self Assessment program and Peer and Practice Assessment program.
 - b. **CTCMPAO:** Performing 15 hours of CE per year and at least 500 traditional Chinese medicine patient visits, which may include traditional Chinese acupuncture patient visits, every three years.
4. ***Clearly delineating in patient records and when communicating with patients*** when providing traditional Chinese acupuncture as a member of the CTCMPAO versus chiropractic services as a member of the CCO.

For more information, see CCO's [Standard of Practice S-011: Members of More Than One Health Profession](#).

Eligibility Criteria for Grandparented Registration

Some requirements of registration in the grandparented class include:

1. ***Completion of at least 2000 traditional Chinese medicine patient visits*** (including traditional Chinese acupuncture) within the 5 year period immediately before April 1, 2013. The Registration Committee defines "traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) patient visit" as a patient visit where:
 - a. There is an initial TCM diagnosis which directs subsequent treatment(s) of a patient, or
 - b. The visit of the patient is for the purpose of obtaining an initial TCM diagnosis which may or may not result in subsequent treatments.
2. ***Successful completion of the Safety Program*** that was set or approved by the Council of the CTCMPAO or by a body approved by the Council, either within the 3 year period immediately preceding the date the application is submitted, or between the time the application is submitted and registration is issued.



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3. *Successful completion of the jurisprudence course* set or approved by the registration committee, either within the 3 year period immediately preceding the submission of the application, or between the time the application is submitted and registration is issued.

More details on the eligibility requirements as well as the terms, conditions and limitations that apply to members of the grandparented class can be found in [Section 6](#) and [Section 7](#) of the [Traditional Chinese Medicine Act, 2006](#).

Application Process and Costs

Applications for grandparented registration must be received by the CTCMPAO by **March 31, 2014**. In preparing your application for grandparented registration, ensure you complete the following:

1. Complete, sign and notarize your application:
 - a. Be sure to complete all sections and indicate the professional title/designation for which you're applying (i.e., R.Ac.),
 - b. Include your Validation Certificate, signed by both you and your witness to validate completion of 2000 traditional Chinese medicine patient visits within the 5-year period immediately before April 1, 2013 (see the CTCMPAO's [Policy 07 – Traditional Chinese Medicine Visit](#)), and
 - c. Sign completed form before Commissioner of Oaths, Notary Public, or lawyer.
2. Prepare and attach the following to your application:
 - a. Evidence of your identity,
 - b. Passport-size photo taken within last 12 months,
 - c. Letter issued by Registrar confirming completion of Jurisprudence Course and Safety Program either within the 3 year period immediately preceding the date the application is submitted, or between the time the application is submitted and registration is issued,
 - d. Written language plan,
 - e. Professional liability insurance certificate, and
 - f. Criminal background check. Please note that these checks can take several months to complete.
3. Include two certified cheques or money orders payable to the CTCMPAO:
 - a. Application fee of \$169.50 (\$150.00 + HST, non-refundable), and
 - b. Annual registration fee for \$960.50 (\$850.00 + HST, refundable if the application is not successful).

For more information, see the CTCMPAO's [Guide to Applicants and Grandparented Registration Form](#).