

Regulation of CAM in Cataluña

The law regulating CAM was published on the 1/2/07 and comes into force as from that date.

It is interesting to note that in the preamble reference is made to the general situation in Europe for CAM Therapies and specifically to the Lannoye report.

Article 1

The law names the following natural therapies:

- a) Naturopathy
- b) Naturopathy with homeopathic criteria
- c) Acupuncture
- d) Traditional Chinese Therapy
- e) Kinesiology
- f) Osteopathy
- g) Shiatsu
- h) Foot reflexology
- i) Spinology
- j) Lymphatic Drainage
- k) Massage
- l) Diafreotherapy
- m) Holistic stress liberation with kinesiological techniques

Article 2 Definitions

These therapies are grouped together.

Shiatsu in the group of Manual Therapies and Manual Techniques.

Shiatsu, Osteopathy and Kinesiology are considered Manual Therapies which are defined as those disciplines which use the hands to help restore peoples health and to increase their level of wellbeing. The other Manual Techniques are used to help maintain and preserve health but not for the treatment of pathological processes.

Article 3 Regulatory Commission

The law sets up a regulatory commission for Natural Therapies, with representation from the health ministry, the therapies concerned, the conventional medical profession, trades unions and consumers

Articles 4, - 11

The law lays down the requirements for those people practicing natural therapies and for the places where they are practiced. It makes it quite clear that practitioners of natural therapies are not authorised to undertake activities reserved for medical professionals and that if natural therapies are practiced in a medical centre it must be under the supervision of a medical professional.

Article 12 - 17

The law lays down the procedure for authorization of establishments practicing natural therapies.

Articles 18 -19

The law lays down the criteria for accreditation. Programs for each therapy will be produced by the Institute of Health Studies.

Article 20

Requirements to undertake training .

For most of the therapies including shiatsu, students will have to have achieved a standard of education equivalent to Baccalaureate or pass an access test.

The educational requirement for the group of manual techniques (article 2) is lower, equivalent to the school leaving certificate at 16.

Articles 20 - 34

Centres for education in natural therapies, must meet a series of requirements on the programs of studies, teaching staff, space, health and safety. Teaching staff of the material on health science must be suitably qualified in those subjects ie they must be medical doctors, physiotherapists or nurses.

Each centre must go through an accreditation process with the Institute of Health Studies.

The Institute of Health studies will maintain a register of centres and monitor their compliance with the law.

The law also establishes the sanctions which may be applied if the law is not complied with.

Recognition of Professionals with more than 5 years experience

The Institute of Health Studies can recognise those professionals in any of the therapies now practicing, if they can show that they have a minimum professional experience of 5 consecutive years or 5 years discontinuously over the last 10 years as well as a minimum of 300 hours study in each of the therapies to be recognised . Apart from the Manual Techniques which only require a minimum of 100 hours.

Professional experience can be accredited through the payments made to the Social Security System, the corresponding work contracts or certificate of self- employed status.

There is a two year period in which professionals can apply for this recognition.

In addition applicants may undergo an evaluation test organised by the Institute of Health Studies, they still however have to prove their professional experience.

Recognition of Professional with less than 5 years experience.

The Institute of Health Studies can recognise those professionals who can show the minimum of hours of study but who can show less than 5 years of professional experience. These professionals must pass an evaluation test organised by the Institute for Health Studies.

Recognition of those persons who finalise their studies in the two years following the publication of this law

These people will have to pass a specific test organised by the Institute for Health studies and said Institute must approve the education which has been received.

Recognition of establishments practicing natural therapies and centres for education in natural therapies

These centres have a period of two years to adapt to the new law

The Assesment Comision for the Regulation of Natural Therapies must be formed within one month of the publication of this law.

The guides for the evaluation of each therapy must be approved by the Department of Health within three months.

The Institute of Health Studies must convene the first evaluation test within three months of the approval of the guide for the evaluation of each therapy.