



Homeopathic Certification for Health Care Practitioners in the USA
A Brief Overview provided by Americans for Homeopathy Choice

Homeopathy is a federally recognized form of medicine in the United States, according to the Food Drug and Cosmetic Act. Several different organizations offer specialty certification to practitioners, including board certification for medical doctors, osteopaths, naturopathic physicians, as well as those who are not medically trained professionals.

Several examples are attached:

- CCH - *Certified Classical Homeopath*. This certification is provided by the Council for Homeopathic Certification (CHC), a member of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies and the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE), to qualified individuals.
- DHANP- *Diplomate Homeopathic Academy of Naturopathic Physicians*. This certification is available to qualified Naturopathic Physicians, through the Homeopathic Academy of Naturopathic Physicians (HANP) an affiliate of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP), who meet the prerequisites and successfully demonstrate competency through case submission and an oral interview.
- ABHt- *Diplomate American Board of Homeotherapeutics*. This certification, through the American Board of Homeotherapeutics an affiliate of the American Institute of Homeopathy (AIH), grants advanced specialty status to qualified medical and osteopathic physicians who meet the prerequisites and successfully pass a written and an oral examination.



National Commission for Certifying Agencies

The Accreditation Body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence

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NCCA Accredits the Certified Classical Homeopath Credential (CCH)

On July 21, 2017, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) granted accreditation to the **Council for Homeopathic Certification (CHC), for its Certified Classical Homeopath (CCH) credential**, for demonstrating compliance with the *NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs*. NCCA is the accrediting body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence and was founded in 1977 as a commission whose mission is to help ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the public through the accreditation of a variety of certification programs that assess professional competence. NCCA uses a peer review process to: establish accreditation standards; evaluate compliance with these standards; recognize programs which demonstrate compliance; and serve as a resource on quality certification.

The CHC joins an elite group of organizations representing over 300 programs that have received NCCA accreditation.

About the CHC

The CHC is a member of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE) and as such follows the distinction of professional certification as a voluntary process by which individuals are evaluated against predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, or competencies. Formed in 1991 and incorporated in 1992, the CHC is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization that certifies individuals who meet and maintain recognized professional standards and ethical competence in classical homeopathy. Assisting the general public in choosing appropriately qualified homeopaths, the CHC envisions healthcare systems that include access to certified classical homeopathic practitioners.

Acting as an autonomous governing board, the CHC maintains oversight and responsibility for all certification and recertification policy decisions, including governance, eligibility standards, appeals and disciplinary actions, and the development, administration, scoring, and reporting of assessment instruments.



HOMEOPATHIC ACADEMY OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS

The Homeopathic Academy of Naturopathic Physicians (HANP) is a specialty organization within the naturopathic medical profession. We are affiliated with the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP). The HANP is a nonprofit organization with no owners or stockholders. It relies on the volunteer work of the HANP Board, student representatives, and focus group volunteers.

Our mission is to promote excellence in the practice of homeopathy among naturopathic physicians. We establish and uphold specialist standards, provide education and mentorship, and are committed to protect and preserve homeopathy as a core therapeutic modality within the naturopathic profession.

HANP Activities Include:

- Encouraging the development and improvement of homeopathic curriculum at naturopathic colleges.
- Distributing our published *Simillimum* ~ a peer-reviewed annual journal of homeopathic practice.
- Offering homeopathic continuing education.
- Providing board certification in classical homeopathy to naturopathic physicians.
- Working with other homeopathic organizations towards the advancement of the homeopathic profession.

What Is Naturopathic Medicine?

Naturopathic medicine is a system of primary healthcare that blends modern scientific knowledge with traditional and natural forms of medicine. It emphasizes the use of natural modalities—such as nutrition, homeopathy, lifestyle counseling and botanical medicine—to promote wellness and treat illness. Naturopathic doctors (NDs) work according to a set of basic principles—the Principles of Naturopathic Medicine—that include such things as stimulating the healing power of the body and addressing the underlying causes of disease, rather than focusing on alleviating symptoms. The practice of naturopathic medicine requires understanding illness within the context of a person’s whole life.

The naturopathic approach to healthcare also emphasizes patient education and self-care. Naturopathic medicine can be used in conjunction with conventional medical therapies to support the body’s healing processes—an approach referred to as “integrative medicine.” In some clinics and hospitals, NDs work in collaboration with MDs, DCs, DOs, acupuncturists, and other healthcare practitioners, and they refer patients for emergency and other situations when necessary.

While NDs primarily use natural healing approaches, they are also trained to perform minor surgeries, such as removing cysts or suturing superficial wounds, as well as to utilize prescription drugs under certain circumstances.

Overview of Naturopathic Medical Education

Doctoral programs in naturopathic medicine (ND programs) in the U.S. and Canada are offered by multipurpose universities as well as naturopathic doctor colleges that focus solely on providing naturopathic medical education. These programs emphasize the use of natural modalities—such as nutrition, homeopathy, lifestyle counseling and botanical medicine—in maintaining wellness and treating illness. The comprehensive program of study also includes coursework in the biomedical and clinical sciences similar to what is studied in DO, DC and MD programs, as well as hands-on clinical training. All Council on Naturopathic Medical Education-accredited (<https://cnme.org/>) naturopathic doctor schools/programs (ND programs) are primarily campus-based and typically take four years to complete. CNME-accredited ND programs qualify graduates for licensure in the U.S. and Canada. The Council on Naturopathic Medical Education does not accredit online or distance education programs.

To be eligible for accreditation, a naturopathic doctor school/program must meet CNME’s rigorous accreditation standards. These standards cover program length and content, clinical training requirements, faculty qualifications, student services, student and program assessment, facilities, and library resources—among other areas. CNME accreditation ensures that students receive a high-quality medical education that prepares them for licensed practice.



HOMEOPATHIC ACADEMY OF NATUROPATHIC PHYSICIANS

For information on Council on Naturopathic Medical Education's accreditation standards, see Part Four of the CNME *Handbook of Accreditation for Naturopathic Medical Programs: Accreditation Standards for Naturopathic Medicine Programs*.

Naturopathic Licensing

NABNE (the North American Board of Naturopathic Examiners - <https://www.nabne.org>) is an independent, nonprofit organization formed as a service to the naturopathic profession and the agencies that license/register naturopathic physicians. NABNE serves regulating bodies by qualifying applicants to take the NPLEX (Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Examinations), administering the examinations, and sending exam results and transcripts to regulatory authorities.

NPLEX Examination Overview

NPLEX Examinations are case-based. This means that the examinations are comprised of clinical summaries followed by several questions pertaining to the patient's case. On the Part I – Biomedical Science Examination, the clinical summary is very brief. On the Part II – Clinical Science Examinations, the clinical summary is more extensive. Items on the Part I – Biomedical Science Examination do not require clinical training, as all relate to the biomedical basis for the patient's condition, not diagnosis or treatment. Items on the examinations are all in a multiple-choice, single-answer format (i.e., the “stem” asks a question and there are four response alternatives, only one of which is keyed as the correct answer).

NPLEX Part I – Biomedical Science Examination

The Part I – Biomedical Science Examination (BSE) is an integrated examination that consists of 200 items which cover the topics of anatomy, physiology, biochemistry & genetics, microbiology & immunology, and pathology. The examination is administered in 2 sessions (morning and afternoon) of 2½ hours each.

NPLEX Part II – Core Clinical Science Examination

The Part II – Core Clinical Science Examination (CCSE) is an integrated, case-based examination that consists of approximately 80 case clusters (400 items) which cover the topics of diagnosis (physical, clinical, and lab diagnosis, and diagnostic imaging), materia medica (botanical medicine and homeopathy), other treatment modalities (nutrition, physical medicine, health psychology, and research), and medical interventions (emergency medicine, medical procedures, public health, and pharmacology). The examination is comprised of a series of clinical summaries followed by several questions pertaining to each patient's case. For example, in a single case you might be asked to provide a differential diagnosis, to select appropriate lab tests, to prescribe therapies which safely address the patient's condition, and to respond to acute care emergencies. This examination is administered in three sections over the course of 3 days (3½ hours each day).

Diplomate Specialty Certification: DHANP

The Homeopathic Academy of Naturopathic Physicians (HANP) was founded and incorporated in in 1981 (Oregon) for the purpose of promoting excellence in the practice of homeopathy among already licensed naturopathic physicians. The HANP grants Diplomate (advanced specialty) status (DHANP) to naturopathic physician applicants who meet the prerequisites and successfully demonstrate competency through case submission and an oral interview. Diplomates of the profession establish and uphold specialist standards, provide education and mentorship, and are committed to protect and preserve homeopathy as a core therapeutic modality within the naturopathic profession.

Requirements for Candidates for the DHANP status by the HANP:

- A naturopathic doctor currently licensed in the USA or Canada. A photocopy of the naturopathic medical license is required.
- Applicants must have practiced homeopathy for a minimum of 3 years post-graduation and treated a minimum of 100 new patients.
- Applicants must have accumulated a minimum of 350 hours of homeopathic education credits and provide documentation with the application.



Diplomate Specialty Certification

The ABHt was founded in 1959 and incorporated in 1960 (New York) for the purpose of promoting the science of homeopathy, and demonstrating its effectiveness to the medical profession, and insuring homeopathy's growth as a viable medical specialty in the U.S. The ABHt grants Diplomate (advanced specialty) status (D.Ht.) to those medical and osteopathic physician applicants who meet the prerequisites and successfully pass a written and an oral examination.

Meetings: Annually

Prerequisites for Candidates for Diplomate Examination by the American Board of Homeotherapeutics

1. Applicants must be eligible for American Institute of Homeopathy membership (currently licensed medical or osteopathic physicians in the USA).
2. Applicants must hold a Medical Doctor (M.D.) or Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.) degree and be licensed to practice medicine in the state or province in which they reside in the U.S. or Canada. (A photocopy of the medical license is to accompany the application).
3. Applicants must have practiced homeopathy for a minimum of 3 years.
4. Applicants must have accumulated a minimum of 350 hours of approved homeopathic education credits; e.g., NCH Postgraduate Summer Course, IFH Postgraduate Course, etc., and provide documentation of such with the application.
5. Applicants must function under unquestionable moral and professional standards to which two members of the ABHt have attested.
6. Applicants must present, at least two months prior to the scheduled examination, 10 chronic, treated cases. Each case must have been treated for a minimum of 1 year. It is preferable to have a follow-up of three years on at least 5 of the submitted cases. Please submit each case typed and double spaced, including the initial history, examination, repertorial analysis, materia medica differential and follow up, with any necessary subsequent repertorizations.



7. Applicants must apply to Dr. Irene Sebastian, American Board of Homeotherapeutics, 401 Veterans Memorial Blvd, suite 203, Metairie LA 70005, for the examination with a check made out to the ABHt in the amount of \$500.00 at least two months prior to the examination.

Prerequisites for Maintaining Diplomate Status in the American Board of Homeotherapeutics

1. Diplomates must accumulate a minimum of 30 hours of continuing homeopathic education credit every three years
 - a. Approved course: 1hr = 1 credit
 - b. Preceptor time: 1hr = 1 credit
 - c. Teaching time: 1hr = 5 credits
2. Diplomates must submit an article to the American Journal of Homeopathic Medicine for consideration for publication every three years.
 - a. Submit one article 5 credits
 - b. Submit clinical case:
 - Grand rounds 5 credits
 - 3 short cases 1 credit
3. Diplomates pay annual dues of \$50.00.