



*Safeguarding the Freedom to Choose
Homeopathy for All Americans*

What is Homeopathy?

Imagine a future in which people with illnesses both serious and minor can obtain medicine tailored to their particular physiology—medicine which is broadly effective, inherently safe, affordable, widely available, and almost always free of side-effects. Imagine a future in which that medicine can treat both the physical and psychological components of an illness simultaneously. Users of homeopathic medicines don't have to imagine such a future because that future is already here in the form of homeopathy.

Homeopathy is a system of medicine designed to treat the whole person, both physically and psychologically without toxic side effects. Homeopathy recognizes the connection between our physical health and our emotional lives and works to clear both of symptoms that impede us in our lives.

German physician Samuel Hahnemann (1755 – 1843), the father of homeopathy, sought ways to treat his patients without the toxic side effects and dangerous procedures prevalent in the medicine of his day. He searched for alternatives to bloodletting, leeches, and medicines made from mercury, lead, arsenic, and various strong herbs which resulted in toxic effects and sometimes death in patients.

If the watchword in medicine is “first, do no harm,” Hahnemann was a faithful seeker in this tradition. He learned of an ancient principle in medicine known as “like cures like.” The principle was mentioned by the ancient Greek physician, Hippocrates, famous for the Hippocratic Oath, a pledge of upright professional conduct for physicians. He also found references by Paracelsus, a Renaissance physician responsible for introducing the use of chemicals and minerals in medicine.

Hahnemann noticed that various substances when ingested in undiluted form created the same symptoms as certain diseases. He conceived that by following the principle of “like cures like” these substances might be useful in treating such diseases, but only if

Homeopathy is a Federally Recognized Form of Medicine

Homeopathy is a federally recognized form of medicine. The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act classifies homeopathic medicines as drugs. By law homeopathic medicines are subject to the provisions of the [Homeopathic Pharmacopeia of the United States](#) through which they are evaluated for safety and efficacy. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration monitors homeopathic medicine manufacturers for quality and purity.

Thousands of research studies, papers, and clinical trials have demonstrated the effectiveness of homeopathic medicines. Their safety has long been assured by their nontoxic nature which results from very high dilution of the active ingredients.

those substances were ingested in a much more dilute form. This insight led to experiments that resulted in the first homeopathic medicines, highly dilute solutions of commonly available herbs and chemicals that elicit a healing response from the body without toxic side effects.

This now greatly expanded system is known as homeopathy and certified practitioners who practice it are called homeopaths. Homeopathy is practiced today throughout the world including in some hospitals which emphasize integrative health care. Many medical doctors, osteopaths, naturopaths, chiropractors and other health practitioners routinely prescribe homeopathic medicines for their patients as a low-cost and inherently safe treatment for many conditions.

Homeopathy is used by nearly 250,000 physicians and over 500 million people worldwide, making it one of the most popular forms of integrative medicine. In France, for example, 95 percent of all general practitioners and pediatricians use homeopathy in their practices.* Thus, homeopathy is an integral part of a health care system that is rated number one in the world by the World Health Organization.

*Piolot M, Fagot JP et al. *Homeopathy in France in 2011-2012 according to reimbursements in the French national health insurance database (SNIIRAM)*. Fam Pract. 2015 Apr 28

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