



GENERAL ACUPUNCTURE

New Herbal Education Program by the NCCAOM

Editorial Staff | DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE

Although U.S. retail sales of herbal supplements reach into the billions each year, very little of these profits are from the sale of Chinese or East Asian herbs. This is due to the perception of quality—as such herbal medicine providers must show that their herbs are trustworthy.

To aid in this change, the NCCAOM Chinese Herbal Safe Compounding and Dispensing Taskforce has created a voluntary program, the *Certificate of Qualification*.

The course subject matter will be based on the FDA cGMP and the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) herbal safety white paper, which was released last year. Features of this new program include the following:



• Tracking sources and lot numbers for all granule and raw herbs. (According to FDA cGMPs, individual practitioners are personally liable for herbal prescriptions. One should know where their herbs come from and the quality control taken by the suppliers.)

- Ensuring that AOM practitioners fully understand the FDA, cGMP regulations and best practice standards to avoid any potential adverse effects and harm to patients.
- Proper labeling of all custom formulas: all ingredients and amount per dose, patient and practitioner name, herb compounding date.

The objective in creating this *Certificate of Qualification* program is to garner the public's support of the AOM professional, and to demonstrate accountability and responsibility for patient safety.

The NCCAOM provides additional details regarding this new program in our upcoming June issue.

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