INONU UNIVERSITY TURGUT OZAL MEDICAL CENTER

Directive on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices and Training

Complete English reading edition of the nine-page Turkish directive

This is an unofficial English translation prepared for accessibility. It does not amend the Turkish directive and is not a substitute for current legislation, Ministry of Health requirements or institutional authorization.

English reading edition - August 2026

CHAPTER ONE

Purpose, Scope, Legal Basis and Definitions

Purpose

ARTICLE 1 - (1) The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the procedures and principles concerning the objectives, duties and working arrangements of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practice Center at Inonu University Turgut Ozal Medical Center.

Scope

ARTICLE 2 - (1) This Directive covers the procedures and principles concerning traditional and complementary medicine practices and related training at Inonu University Turgut Ozal Medical Center.

Legal basis

ARTICLE 3 - (1) This Directive has been prepared on the basis of Additional Article 13 of Law No. 1219 on the Practice of Medicine and Medical Sciences, dated 11 April 1928; Article 9(1)(c) and Additional Article 11 of Basic Law No. 3359 on Health Services, dated 7 May 1987; Article 8(1)(f) and (g) and Article 40 of Decree Law No. 663 on the Organization and Duties of the Ministry of Health and its Affiliated Institutions, dated 11 October 2011; and the Regulation on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices published in Official Gazette No. 29158 on 27 October 2014.

Definitions

ARTICLE 4 - (1) For the purposes of this Directive:

- Ministry means the Ministry of Health.
- Scientific Commission means the Scientific Commission for Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices established by the Ministry.
- General Directorate means the General Directorate of Health Services.
- Directorate means the Provincial Directorate of Health.
- Health institution means hospitals affiliated with public institutions and organizations; health practice and research centers of faculties of medicine or dentistry; private hospitals licensed under the Regulation on Private Hospitals published in Official Gazette No. 24708 on 27 March 2002; and health institutions licensed under the Regulation on Private Outpatient Diagnosis and Treatment Institutions published in Official Gazette No. 26788 on 15 February 2008.
- Certified physician means a physician holding a Ministry-registered certificate in traditional and complementary medicine practices.
- Certified dentist means a dentist holding a Ministry-registered certificate in traditional and complementary medicine practices.
- Practice means a traditional and complementary medicine practice governed by the Regulation published in Official Gazette No. 29158 on 27 October 2014.
- Practice center means a center established within a training and research hospital or a health practice and research center of a faculty of medicine or dentistry, under the responsibility of a physician and/or dentist certified in the relevant field, to perform the practices specified in the Regulation after authorization by the Ministry.
- Unit means a unit established within a health institution belonging to a public or private legal entity or a natural person, under the responsibility of a physician and/or dentist certified in the relevant field, to perform the practices specified in the Regulation.
- Training center means a center established within a training and research hospital or a health practice and research center of a faculty of medicine or dentistry, under the responsibility of a physician and/or dentist certified in the relevant field, and authorized by the Ministry to provide training concerning the practices specified in the Regulation.

CHAPTER TWO

Scientific Commission, Duties and Working Procedures

Establishment of the Scientific Commission

ARTICLE 5 - (1) The Ministry establishes a Scientific Commission for Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices to provide opinions on the practices covered by this Directive, the persons who may perform them, and the standards applicable to units and practice centers.

(2) The Scientific Commission consists of 11 members:

- The General Director of Health Services, or an official appointed by the General Director, as chair.
- The head of the relevant department within the General Directorate of Health Services.
- Three members selected from university faculty members who have conducted scientific work in the relevant fields or from physicians authorized to provide specialty training in training and research hospitals affiliated with the Turkish Public Hospitals Institution.
- One member from the field of pharmacognosy at a faculty of pharmacy.
- One member from the field of pharmacology at a faculty of medicine.
- Two certified physician members.
- One faculty member or training officer who is a specialist in medical oncology.
- One member with specialty or doctoral training in medical ethics, history of medicine or deontology.

(3) Members of the Scientific Commission are appointed by the Minister and serve for two years.

Working procedure of the Scientific Commission

ARTICLE 6 - (1) The Scientific Commission meets at least twice a year at the invitation of the General Directorate. The Ministry may convene the Commission whenever necessary.

(2) The Commission discusses the agenda items and prepares its report. The General Directorate notifies members of the meeting agenda at least seven days in advance.

(3) The Commission convenes with at least nine members and decides by an absolute majority. In the event of a tied vote, the position supported by the chair prevails.

(4) Secretariat services for the Commission are provided by the General Directorate.

Duties of the Scientific Commission

ARTICLE 7 - (1) The duties of the Scientific Commission are to:

- Provide opinions on the identification of practice fields, the indications for practices and their possible adverse effects.
- Provide opinions on the medical devices and equipment, personnel and physical standards required in units and practice centers.
- Evaluate applications for units and practice centers in terms of scientific and technical infrastructure and personnel, and provide an opinion on suitability.
- Conduct scientific and technical studies concerning practices not defined in the Regulation.
- Conduct or commission guiding, explanatory and scientific studies concerning the practices.
- Establish subcommissions to study matters as needed.

CHAPTER THREE

General Principles, Authorized Locations and Persons, Operation of Practice Centers, and Fees

General principles of practice

ARTICLE 8 - (1) Practices are limited to the fields specified in this Directive. When necessary, the Ministry may request that new practices performed or proposed at a practice center be scientifically evaluated by the Scientific Commission. After examining the scientific evidence, the Commission provides the Ministry with an opinion on whether a practice may be applied to people and, if considered appropriate, whether it may be performed in a unit or a practice center.

(2) A unit may perform only the practices authorized for units. A practice center may also perform the practices authorized for units.

(3) Practices may not replace standard treatment or interfere with ongoing treatment. This must be clearly explained to the individual and stated in the approved informed-consent form.

(4) Health professionals who are not physicians or dentists but who have received basic training in the relevant practice field may participate under the supervision and control of a certified physician or dentist.

Locations and persons authorized to perform practices

ARTICLE 9 - (1) Practices may be performed only in a unit or practice center authorized by the Ministry, by a physician holding a practice certificate in the relevant field or, solely for practices in dentistry, by a dentist. Health professionals with basic training in the practice field may assist certified physicians in centers and units.

(2) In dental practice and research centers, dental hospitals, oral and dental health centers and dental outpatient clinics, only practices related to dentistry may be performed.

Working procedures and principles of a practice center

ARTICLE 10 - (1) A practice center or unit may be opened within the Ministry's planning for health institutions and facilities. Such permission does not independently confer a right to open a new private health institution or increase capacity. Health institutions belonging to public or private legal entities or natural persons that wish to establish a center or unit apply to the Ministry with the required documents. Applications are evaluated by the Scientific Commission for compliance with standards and need in the province concerned. If an application considered suitable by the Commission is also approved by the Ministry, permission to open the center or unit is granted. The unit or practice center and its authorized practices are entered in the health institution's license or operating permit.

(2) A patient file must be prepared for every patient and every practice performed in a unit or center. If patient and practice data are requested electronically, they must be sent to the Ministry with due regard for the confidentiality of personal health data.

(3) Every adverse effect occurring in a patient in connection with a practice must be reported regularly each month to the Directorate, and the information must be forwarded to the Ministry.

(4) An Information and Consent Form compliant with the Regulation on Patient Rights, published in Official Gazette No. 23420 on 1 August 1998, must be prepared and consent must be obtained from every patient before a practice is performed.

Fees

ARTICLE 11 - Fees for the practices are charged in accordance with the Public Health Services tariff dated 30 October 2017 and numbered 23642684.010.99.2061.

CHAPTER FOUR

Minimum Required Areas, Medical Devices, Materials and Medicines

Minimum required areas

ARTICLE 12 - (1) A unit or practice center must contain at least:

- An examination and practice room with a minimum floor area of 12 square meters and the minimum medical materials and equipment required for examination and practice.
- A patient reception and waiting area.
- An archive.

(2) The patient reception and waiting area and the archive may be shared with the health institution.

(3) If a unit or practice center is established in a location separate from the health institution's service building, areas such as patient reception, waiting and archives must comply with the minimum physical conditions set for health institutions in the Regulation on Private Outpatient Diagnosis and Treatment Institutions.

(4) A unit or practice center may perform only practices for which it has obtained permission from the Ministry. Separate permission must be obtained for every new practice.

Medical devices, materials and medicines

ARTICLE 13 - A Traditional and Complementary Medicine Center must keep the devices and materials required under the Regulation on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices published in Official Gazette No. 29158 on 27 October 2014, including the minimum devices and materials specified for each type of practice.

Inspection

ARTICLE 14 - (1) Except for inspections arising from complaints or investigations and extraordinary inspections conducted by the Ministry, units and practice centers are inspected at least once a year by the Directorate. The inspection team must have at least three members and include at least one specialist from an internal medicine branch and one specialist from a surgical branch. The approved inspection form is completed in duplicate, and one copy is left for safekeeping with the institution or organization in which the inspected unit or center is located.

Other requirements and prohibitions

ARTICLE 15 - (1) A practice center must comply with the following requirements:

- It may not provide services without authorization from the Ministry.
- It must contain the minimum required areas specified in this Directive.
- It may not operate outside its authorized purpose.
- No field or unit in the practice center may be used by unauthorized persons.
- Physicians, dentists and other health personnel who do not hold the certificates and work permits required by the relevant legislation may not be employed in the center.
- Physicians and dentists may not perform practices outside the field covered by their practice certificate.

CHAPTER FIVE

Standards for Certified Training Programs

This chapter covers the legal basis and delivery of the program, participants and qualifications, curriculum, duration, evaluation, trainers, training premises, certificate renewal and fees.

Legal basis of training

ARTICLE 16 - (1) The following legislation forms the legal basis for the training program:

- The Ministry of Health Regulation on Certified Training, published in Official Gazette No. 28903 on 4 February 2014.
- Decree Law No. 663.
- The Regulation on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices, published in Official Gazette No. 29158 on 27 October 2014.

Delivery of the training program

ARTICLE 17 - The training program is conducted in accordance with the following procedures and principles:

(1) Training is both theoretical and practical. The theoretical component may be delivered through formal education or distance learning.

(2) Up to 80 percent of theoretical training may be provided as distance education by centers with adequate technical infrastructure.

(3) Distance education must give participants synchronous and asynchronous access to interactive applications over the internet using infrastructure provided by the server. Interactive live sessions must be held at scheduled times under the course program.

(4) During training, each participant must undertake and follow the treatment of the number of cases specified in the Ministry of Health certified-training standards.

(5) Practical training takes place in acupuncture outpatient clinics or centers, one-to-one or in small groups at the bedside, progressing through observation, performance under supervision and independent performance.

(6) Course content is identified at the beginning of the program, sources are cited, or course notes are provided.

(7) Theoretical and practical course hours comply with Ministry of Health certified-training standards.

(8) In addition to participants assigned by the Ministry, the number of participants specified in the certified-training standards may be admitted during a training period.

(9) A participant assigned by the Ministry must be a physician or dentist without a compulsory state service obligation and for whom the program is important to the services provided at the participant's institution. No training fee is charged to such a participant.

(10) Participants may not be assigned to other work, fields, units or centers during the training program.

(11) Continuous attendance is essential and attendance at practical training is compulsory. A participant who misses up to 10 percent of practical training for a legally valid reason may not sit the certificate examination until the missed period has been completed. Up to 10 percent absence from theoretical training is permitted for a legally valid reason.

(12) The program uses the following teaching and learning strategies, methods and techniques:

- Oral presentation.
- Video-assisted teaching.
- Small-group discussion.
- Demonstration and supervised practice.
- Question and answer.
- Simulation.
- Clinical practice.

Participants and qualifications

ARTICLE 18 - Participants must be physicians or dentists who will perform practices within their own professional field.

Curriculum

ARTICLE 19 - The theoretical and practical curriculum is based on the 2015 programs numbered SASES-9, SASES-25 and SASES-18 under the Health Field Certified Training Standards.

Training materials and required characteristics

ARTICLE 20 - Training materials include:

- Written materials covering the curriculum, including books, slides, training guides and scientific journals.
- Audiovisual materials, including compact discs, videos and images.
- Subject-specific electronic content for distance learning, including forums, virtual classroom sessions, presentations, case studies, videos and audio recordings.
- Models and relevant materials for practical courses.
- Sterile single-use steel needles, which are mandatory for practice.
- An electroacupuncture device, an electrostimulation device, ear and body point detectors, a laser acupuncture device, and silver and gold needles.
- Other devices used in acupuncture treatment that are approved by the Ministry of Health in light of developing technology.
- All devices and equipment required under the relevant legislation for a practice center.
- Devices and materials at the training location that are suitable for use as educational materials.

Duration of training

ARTICLE 21 - The duration of certificate training is determined according to the theoretical and practical hours specified in the 2015 programs numbered SASES-9, SASES-25 and SASES-18 under the Health Field Certified Training Standards.

Evaluation of training

ARTICLE 22 - Training is evaluated according to the following procedures and principles:

- Participants who fail to meet the attendance requirement are not admitted to the examinations.
- A theoretical examination and a practical examination are held at the end of the program.
- Participants must pass the theoretical and practical examinations separately.
- Examination questions are prepared under the chairmanship of the program director by an examination commission consisting of at least three trainers and must cover the full curriculum.
- The theoretical examination uses multiple-choice questions.
- A score of at least 70 out of 100 is required to pass the theoretical examination. A participant who fails may take the theoretical examination no more than two additional times. A participant who remains unsuccessful must reapply to the acupuncture certified-training program.
- A participant who has not passed the theoretical examination may not take the practical examination.
- The practical examination is conducted at the bedside and/or on a model.
- The practical examination assesses planning, performance and post-procedure considerations.
- A score of at least 70 out of 100 is required to pass the practical examination. A participant who fails may take the practical examination no more than two additional times. A participant who remains unsuccessful must reapply to the acupuncture certified-training program.
- Objections to theoretical or practical examination grades are evaluated and concluded by the certified-training provider within five days.
- The final achievement score is the average of the theoretical and practical examination scores.
- A participant who passes both examinations is entitled to receive a certificate.

- The certificate is registered by the Ministry of Health.

Trainers and qualifications

ARTICLE 23 - A physician or dentist meeting either of the following conditions may be appointed as a trainer:

- Holds a practice certificate and has worked actively in the relevant practice field for at least three years.
- Holds a practice certificate and has at least two national or international scientific publications concerning the relevant practice.

Requirements for the training location

ARTICLE 24 - The location used for theoretical and practical training must provide:

(1) For distance education:

- Learning Management System software compliant with international learning-content standards such as SCORM or AICC.
- A Learning Management System administration panel.
- Server and infrastructure capacity appropriate to the number of students.
- Integrated video-conferencing software and infrastructure for synchronous training.

(2) A training room with sufficient equipment for interactive learning.

(3) A well-ventilated training room with adequate heat and light, sized for the number of participants, using a modular arrangement that can be divided into two rooms when necessary.

(4) Sufficient suitable desks and chairs for the number of participants.

(5) Computers and audiovisual equipment appropriate to the training technology; practice models; a whiteboard; printing, copying and paper-support systems through which objectives, topics, content and presentations can be provided to participants; and preferably an internet connection that permits online animations and educational materials to be used in the training room.

Certificate renewal criteria

ARTICLE 25 - (1) Certificates are renewed at the end of their seven-year validity period in accordance with the renewal criteria in the Ministry of Health certified-training standards.

(2) The renewal examination is coordinated by the relevant Ministry unit and conducted by acupuncture certified-training program providers. It is a theoretical multiple-choice examination based on the program content and current developments in the field.

(3) Participants scoring 70 or higher are successful and their certificates are extended for five years.

(4) Certificates remain valid until the recertification examination process is completed.

(5) Except where a legally acceptable reason exists, the certificate of a person who fails to attend two consecutive renewal examinations becomes invalid. A person with a legally acceptable reason is admitted to the examination as soon as possible after that reason ends.

(6) If a center authorized to provide the certified-training program stops training activities, loses its authorization, closes or is transferred, recertification examinations are conducted by the relevant Ministry unit.

(7) Objections by unsuccessful certificate holders to renewal examination grades are evaluated and concluded by the renewal examination commission within five days.

(8) Practice certificates obtained before these standards entered into force were issued without an expiry date and are therefore not subject to recertification. However, any such certificate not yet registered must be registered within two years after publication of the standards; otherwise it becomes invalid.

Fees for certified training

ARTICLE 26 - Certificate fees are determined in accordance with Article 13, concerning training, of the Regulation on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices published in Official Gazette No. 29158 on 7 October 2014, and Article 9(2), concerning training fees, of the Ministry of Health Regulation on Certified Training published on 4 February 2014.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Final Provisions

The chapter numbering follows the Turkish source document.

Institutional directive

ARTICLE 27 - Turgut Ozal Medical Center prepares its own Directive on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices according to its existing clinical branches, staffing and workload, and puts it into effect following approval by the Rectorate.

Entry into force

ARTICLE 28 - This Directive enters into force on the date on which it is adopted by the University Senate.

Execution

ARTICLE 29 - The provisions of this Directive are executed by the Chief Physician of Inonu University Turgut Ozal Medical Center.