



॥ आयुषे सर्वलोकानाम् ॥

भारतीय चिकित्सा पद्धति राष्ट्रीय आयोग

भारत सरकार

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Advisory

Subject: Advisory for practitioners of the Indian System of Medicine (ISM) regarding the use of cannabis-containing drugs and self-proclaiming as cannabis specialists -Regarding

It is submitted that Inter-Ministerial coordination committee to address the illegal selling of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs containing Bhang (Cannabis) and prescribed by certain Ayurveda/Unani/Siddha & Sowa-Rigpa practitioners on various platforms, including e-commerce platforms for treating multiple diseases was held on 08.05.2024, wherein it has been decided to issue an *“Advisory that registered medical practitioner should not promote himself/herself as a cannabis specialist, and if anyone does so, may face legal consequences.”*

In view of above, an advisory is being issued for practitioners of the Indian System of Medicine (ISM) regarding the use of cannabis-containing drugs and not to self-proclaims himself/herself as a cannabis specialist.

- Practitioners should ensure that any use of cannabis-containing drugs shall in with the compliance of The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Act, 1985, The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and Rule/Regulation framed by Concerned State Govt. (Before Use of cannabis-containing drugs pre-approval must be taken from the State Drug Licensing Authority).
- Practitioners are directed to not to self-proclaim as cannabis specialists. This is to prevent misinformation.
- Adherence to ethical practices is crucial, avoiding any misleading claims about expertise or the benefits of cannabis-based treatments.
- Patient safety and well-being should be the primary focus, ensuring treatments are based on scientific evidence and administered responsibly.

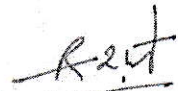
Legal Consequences:

- Necessary legal action will be taken in compliance to the Chapter-IV i.e. OFFENCES AND PENALTIES of THE NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, ACT, 1985 and in compliance to the relevant Act or regulation framed in this regard by the Concerned authority.
- As per sub-regulation (d) of regulation 27 of National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (Ethics and Registration) regulation 2023, *“When a practitioner including a teaching*

faculty of Indian System of Medicine misrepresents his qualifications or presents false qualifications or degree or produces a fake certificate of registration is convicted; he shall be on first time a warning or temporary suspension of a practitioner whose name is enrolled in the State Register and the National Register, for a period not exceeding three months or with a penalty not exceeding twenty-five thousand rupees be imposed by the respective State Medical Council or the Board as the case may be or with both; and in the event of a second time, a temporary suspension of a practitioner whose name is enrolled in the State Register and the National Register for a period not less than three months and not more than one year or with a penalty not less than twenty-five thousand rupees and not exceeding fifty thousand rupees or both be imposed by the respective State Medical Council or the Board as the case may be; and in the event of third and subsequent conviction there shall be permanent removal of the name of the practitioner enrolled in the State Register and the National Register”.

Note: - It is lawful for the Practitioners of ISM Ayurveda/Unani/Siddha & Sowa-Rigpa to prescribe medicine Containing Bhang (Cannabis) in accordance with classical reference as per approval by State Drug licensing authority (AUS) under Drug and Cosmetic Act 1940 & rule 1945.

This advisory aim to prevent misuse and ensure that cannabis is used in a safe, effective, and ethically responsible manner in medical practice.



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