



APITHERAPY CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM

STANDARDS FOR APITHERAPY CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM

1. NAME OF TRAINING

Apitherapy Certification Training Program

2. AIM OF TRAINING

The apitherapy certification training program aims at gaining the physicians who will practice apitherapy the required qualifications so as to ensure that these practices are conducted in the most efficient and productive way.

3. LEGAL BASIS FOR TRAINING

The following legislation is taken as a basis for the implementation of this training program.

1. Decree Law No. 663,
2. "Regulation on Certification Training of the Ministry of Health" published in the Official Gazette dated February 4, 2014 and numbered 28903,
3. "Regulation on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices" published in the Official Gazette dated October 27, 2014 and numbered 29158.

4. DEFINITIONS

Apitherapy: It is a practice used as a complementary and supportive treatment for certain diseases which utilizes bee and bee products.

It aims at supporting the immune system by using honeybee venom and/or bee products (honey, propolis, royal jelly, pollen, etc.) and at reducing the symptoms of certain progressive diseases seen in musculoskeletal system.

Practice Center: It is a center which is established within the body of health application and research center of the faculties of medicine and training and research hospitals to perform the practices specified in the relevant Regulation under the responsibility of a physician who holds a certificate on the relevant field and which can provide training if authorized by the Ministry.

Distance Learning: It is a way of learning in which students are separated by time and physical location from instructors and both the transfer of course contents and the interaction are ensured using information and communication technologies.

Asynchronous Learning: It is a way of learning-training which occurs asynchronously at different times and locations.

Synchronous Learning: It is a way of learning-training which occurs synchronously.

5. PROCEDURES AND PRINCIPLES TO IMPLEMENT THIS TRAINING PROGRAM

The training program shall be implemented based on the procedures and principles listed below.

1. The training program shall be carried out both in theory and in practice. The theoretical part of the training may be taught in face-to-face classes and/or a maximum of 80% of the same theoretical part may be taught as distance learning courses.

2. It shall be ensured, in distance learning, that the participants have synchronous and asynchronous access to interactive practices on-line through the infrastructure provided by the server -on condition that at least 50% of the distance learning courses are synchronous, and that interactive live courses are taught at certain hours in a certain place/hall within the bounds of live curriculum.
3. The participants need to practice at least 5 (five) cases set forth in the curriculum during the training.
4. The contents of the courses shall be designated in the beginning of the training program; the participants shall be given references or provided with lecture notes.
5. Theoretical and practical courses shall last for 8 (eight) hours a day at most. The period of a course shall be 45 (forty five) minutes.
6. A maximum of 50 (fifty) participants for distance learning courses and a maximum of 25 (twenty five) participants for face-to-face classes can be accepted in one training period/term except for 2 (two) participants who will be assigned by the Ministry.
7. The participants to be assigned by the Ministry will be a physician who does not have any public service liability and whose training in this program is of importance for his/her services in the institution she/he works. These participants will not pay any training fee. The participants cannot be made work in any other field/unit/center or in any other job position during the training program.
8. Continuous attendance is essential for the training, and the practical training requires compulsory attendance. The participants who cannot attend 10% of the practical training at most due to a legal excuse shall not be allowed to take the certification exam unless they complete the hours they miss. A maximum of 10% absence due to a legal excuse is acceptable for the theoretical training.
9. The following teaching and learning strategies, methods and techniques shall be applied in the training program:
 - Verbal lecture
 - Small group discussion
 - Demonstrative teaching
 - Participative scientific activity
 - Question and answer
 - Video-based teaching
 - Clinical practice (case analysis activities)
 - Practice on a model
10. The practical training includes bed-side apitherapy practices performed individually or in small groups in practice centers or units, and it consists of “observing”, “doing under supervision” and “doing independently” stages respectively.
11. The relevant unit of this certification training program is Ministry of Health, General Directorate of Health Services, Department of Training and Certification Services.

6. PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR QUALIFICATIONS

Physicians can participate in this training program.

7. TRAINING CURRICULUM

7.1. Learning Objectives and Subjects in Training Courses

The subjects to be included in theoretical part of training program as well as learning objectives and duration of each subject are illustrated in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Subjects to be Included in Theoretical Part of Training Program and Learning Objectives and Duration of Each Subject		
SUBJECTS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES	TIME/HOURS
History and importance of Apitherapy	describes the history of Apitherapy. discusses the importance of Apitherapy.	1
Biology, metabolism and physiology of the bee	describes the life cycle and biology of the bee. describes the metabolism of the bee. describes the physiology of the bee.	2
Apitherapy terminology	describes the terms related to Apitherapy.	1
Properties of raw and processed bee products (chemical and biological)	describes the chemical and biological properties of raw and processed bee products (honey, bee's pollen, royal jelly, bee venom and other products): describes chemical and biological properties. explains quality criteria for apitherapy. describes the terms of organic and fresh bee products. describes the preparation and conservation conditions of bee products.	3
Relation between apitherapy and other complementary medicine fields, and the holistic and integrative approach knowledge	describes the holistic and integrative approaches. describes the relation between apitherapy and other complementary medicine fields.	1
Threpsology and Apitherapy	describes the relation between threpsology and apitherapy.	1
Primary endocrine-metabolism knowledge	describes basic concepts of human endocrinology and metabolism. describes the relation between human metabolism and apitherapy.	1

Table 1: Subjects to be Included in Theoretical Part of Training Program and Learning Objectives and Duration of Each Subject

SUBJECTS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES	TIME/ HOURS
Primary immunology knowledge, allergy and apitherapy	describes basic concepts related to immunology and allergy. describes the relation between the immunology and allergy and the apitherapy.	1
Primary dermatology knowledge and apitherapy	describes basic concepts of dermatology. describes the relation between dermatology and apitherapy.	1
Primary oncology knowledge and apitherapy	describes basic concepts of oncology. describes the relation between oncology and apitherapy.	1
Primary neurology knowledge and apitherapy	describes basic concepts of neurology. describes the relation between neurology and apitherapy.	1
Infectious diseases and apitherapy	describes basic concepts of infectious diseases describes the relation between infectious diseases and apitherapy.	1
Pain and apitherapy	describes pain formation mechanisms. describes the relation between pain formation and apitherapy.	1
Scientific study methodologies and general overview of apitherapy studies Apitherapy principles	describes the scientific study methodology. describes the scientific study methodology in apitherapy. describes apitherapy principles.	3
Contraindications and complications in apitherapy (approaches towards anaphylaxis, approaches towards mad honey poisoning, etc.)	describes contraindications and complications in apitherapy.	1
Patient's consent, ethical rules, malpractice, legal obligations and apitherapy	describes the relevant legislation, ethical rules and legal obligations in apitherapy. describes the difference between malpractice and a possible complication in apitherapy.	2
Traditional medicine ecoles and apitherapy	describes the Western and Eastern traditional medicine ecoles. describes the Far East medicine and primary acupuncture knowledge. describes the apitherapy in terms of traditional medicine.	3

Table 1: Subjects to be Included in Theoretical Part of Training Program and Learning Objectives and Duration of Each Subject

SUBJECTS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES	TIME/ HOURS
Traditional medicine ecoles and apitherapy	describes the Western and Eastern traditional medicine ecoles. describes the Far East medicine and primary acupuncture knowledge. describes the apitherapy in terms of traditional medicine.	3
Human anatomy (topographic), acupuncture meridians and points and apitherapy	describes the concepts of Human Anatomy. describes the meridians and points on the meridians in acupuncture. describes the frequently used points in apitherapy practices.	2
Chemical and biological properties of bee products (pollen, honey, propolis, royal jelly, bee venom, etc.)	Of bee products (pollen, honey, propolis, royal jelly, bee venom, etc.): describes chemical and biological properties. explains quality criteria for apitherapy.	3
Bee venom practice techniques	describes bee venom practice techniques.	4
Dosage in apitherapy products	describes optimal, lethal and toxic dosage information of products used in apitherapy.	1
First Aid and Emergency Intervention	describes basic life support procedures and principles required in emergencies. describes emergency interventions on relevant subjects.	1
Regulation on Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices	describes rights and responsibilities laid upon as per the relevant legislation.	1
Cases considered for Indication		
Immune system disorder	Describes how to practice apitherapy in immune system disorders, immune-modulation and immune system support.	1
Neurodegenerative diseases	Describes how to practice apitherapy in neurodegenerative diseases.	1

Table 1: Subjects to be Included in Theoretical Part of Training Program and Learning Objectives and Duration of Each Subject

SUBJECTS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES	TIME/ HOURS
Musculoskeletal and nervous system pain	Describes the practicing points in cases when musculoskeletal pain may be seen (rheumatismal diseases, osteoarthritis, neuralgia etc.).	1
Muscle contractures and muscle weakness	Describes how to practice apitherapy in diseases in which leg muscle contractures and muscle weakness can occur.	
Wounds and skin problems	Describes how to practice apitherapy in wounds.	1
Case presentations	Discusses potential cases related to apitherapy.	3
TOTAL		45

Table 2: Subjects to be included in the Practical Training Program and Learning Objectives and Duration of Each Subject

SUBJECTS	OBJECTIVES Participant successfully completing this training program:	DURATION (Hours)
Medical history taking and planning the practice	Takes medical history according to the case. Plans the apitherapy according to the symptoms.	
Techniques to practice apitherapy	Observes the areas to practice apitherapy in line with the disease indication. Practices Apitherapy Technique. Decides on the appropriate apitherapy technique, dosage and number of sessions in line with the disease indication and case.	5
Immune system disorders	Shows on persons or models how to practice apitherapy in immune system disorders.	5
Neurodegenerative diseases	Shows on persons or models the apitherapy practice in neurodegenerative diseases.	

Table 2: Subjects to be included in the Practical Training Program and Learning Objectives and Duration of Each Subject		
SUBJECTS	OBJECTIVES Participant successfully completing this training program:	DURATION (Hours)
Musculoskeletal and nervous system pain	Shows on persons or models the practicing points in cases when musculoskeletal pain may be seen (rheumatismal diseases, osteoarthritis, neuralgia etc.).	5
Muscle contractures and muscle weakness	Shows on persons or models how to practice apitherapy in diseases in which leg muscle contractures and muscle weakness can occur.	5
Wounds and skin problems	Shows on persons or models how to practice apitherapy in wounds and skin problems in various parts of the body.	5
TOTAL		35

7.2. Training Materials and Their Features

Materials to be used in the training are as follows:

1. Written training materials including subjects in the training content (books, slides, training guidelines, scientific journals etc.)
2. Audiovisual training materials (compact discs, video films, pictures, etc.)
3. Training contents, discussions (forums and virtual class sessions), presentations, case studies, videos, voice records, etc. developed in a context-specific perspective for training and transferred into digital environment.
4. All tools and equipment that are supposed to be in an Apitherapy Practice Center as per the relevant legislation.

5. All kinds of devices and materials at the place where the training will take place will be considered as training material.

7.3. Duration of Training

The duration of the Apitherapy Certification Training Program is given in the table below.

Table 3: The Duration of the Apitherapy Certification Training Program	
TYPE OF TRAINING	TOTAL DURATION (Hours)
Theoretical Training	45
Practical/Field Training	35
TOTAL	80

7.4. Evaluation of Training (Exam Procedure, Achievement Criteria, Extra Exam Right, etc.)

The training will be evaluated according to the following procedures and principles.

1. Participants who do not fulfill the requirement of compulsory attendance shall not be allowed to participate in the exam.
2. Theoretical and practice exams shall be conducted at the end of the training program.
3. Theoretical exam questions shall be prepared by the exam committee, composed of minimum three trainers, under the chairmanship of the program officer in a way to cover all the subjects included in the training content.
4. Participants are supposed to succeed both in theoretical and practice exam separately. Those who score 70 (seventy) points or more out of 100 (one hundred) in the exam shall be deemed successful. Those who cannot pass the theoretical exam shall not be allowed to take the practice exam.
5. Participants who fail to score this minimum point in the theoretical exam shall be allowed to take the exam 2 (two) more times at maximum; those who cannot pass the exam are supposed to apply to the Apitherapy Certification Training Program again.
6. The practice exams shall be conducted by using Apitherapy Certification Training Evaluation Form (Annex 1). Each subject included in the form will be rated as Highly Satisfactory (4), Satisfactory (3), Moderately Satisfactory (2), Unsatisfactory (1) or Not Evaluated (0). Points obtained from each subject will be totaled. This total will be divided by the number of subjects evaluated and the average is determined. The average will be multiplied by 25 (twenty five) and it will be calculated out of 100 (one hundred). Those who score 70 (seventy) points or more out of 100 (one hundred) in the practice exam shall be deemed successful.
7. The practice exam shall be conducted by practicing on a patient and/or on a model.
8. In the practice exam;
 - a. Treatment planning,
 - b. Apitherapy practice,
 - c. Pre- and post-treatment follow-up practices shall be evaluated.
9. For certification, the success point of a participant shall be determined by calculating the arithmetic mean of the points obtained in the theoretical and practice exams.
10. Participants who fail in the practice exam shall be allowed to take the exam 2 (two) more times at maximum; those who cannot pass the exam are supposed to apply to the Apitherapy Certification Training Program again.
11. The objections of the participants who object to the results of their theoretical and practice exams conducted at the end of the apitherapy certification training program shall be evaluated and concluded by the certification training providers in 5 (five) days at the latest.
12. Participants who pass the theoretical and practice exams shall be awarded their certificates.

13. The certificate shall be registered by the Ministry of Health to become valid.
14. The validity period of the certificate is seven years. At the end of seven years, the certificates of those who satisfy the requirements listed in the certificate renewal criteria shall be directly renewed. The certificates of those who do not meet the requirements shall be renewed only if they succeed in the exam to be conducted.
15. In the case of a legally-acceptable excuse; the personnel trained shall complete their training by adding the duration of training which they are unable to participate in to the training program. If a participant fails to participate in training or s/he discontinues it, her/his training shall be cancelled and she/he shall be deemed unsuccessful.

8. PROGRAM OFFICER AND HER/HIS QUALIFICATIONS

Physicians and academicians holding an academic title in the relevant field are the program officers of the Apitherapy Certification Training Program.

9. TRAINERS AND THEIR QUALIFICATIONS

Those who have at least one of the following qualifications are assigned as trainers in this training program;

1. Physicians who hold an Apitherapy Certificate,
2. Physicians or academicians specializing in the subjects of the theoretical lessons of apitherapy,
3. Physicians who have at least two national/international scientific publications on apitherapy,
4. Those who are foreign national and document that they have actively practiced their profession and received apitherapy training in an institution accredited on international platform and who are deemed to be qualified by the committee established by the relevant unit of the Ministry,
5. The citizens of the Republic of Turkey who document that they have actively practiced their profession abroad and received apitherapy training in an institution accredited on international platform and who are deemed to be qualified by the committee established by the relevant unit of the Ministry.

NOTE: The Practice Centers are obliged to notify the Ministry of Health about the qualifications and names of the trainers.

10. PROPERTIES OF THE TRAINING PLACE

The institutions/organizations which have a "Practice Center" can organize the Apitherapy Certification Training Program. The place where the training will be provided shall:

1. For distance learning;
 - a. have a Learning Management System (LMS) software compliant with international learning content standards (Scorm, AICC, etc.),
 - b. have a Learning Management System (LMS) Management panel,
 - c. have a server and infrastructure architecture in parallel with the capacity of the trainees,
 - d. ensure that video conferencing software and infrastructures are

integrated into the system so as to provide simultaneous trainings,

2. have a training hall which has the sufficient equipment and where the participants can receive interactive training,
3. have a training hall which is warm and bright enough as well as being spacious, where a modular system can be used, which has a capacity in the number of the participants to be trained, and which can be divided into two separate training halls when necessary,
4. have adequate number of chairs and desks for participants,
5. have a server and infrastructure architecture in parallel with the capacity of the trainees for distance learning,
6. ensure that video conferencing software and infrastructures are integrated into the system so as to provide simultaneous trainings,
7. be a Center for Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practices approved by the Ministry,
8. have computers; audiovisual devices; practice models; a blackboard; a printer, xerox machine and paper support systems ensuring that participants are provided with training objectives, subjects and contents/presentations; preferably an internet access enabling that online and visual animations/training materials are used.

11. VALIDITY PERIOD OF THE CERTIFICATE

The validity period of the certificate is 7 (seven) years.

12. CERTIFICATE RENEWAL CRITERIA

The certificates shall be renewed in line with the following criteria:

1. At the end of the validity period of the certificate; the certificates of those who certify that they have at least one of the following requirements as:
 - a. participating in minimum 1 (one) national/international training or scientific meeting,
 - b. having publications in minimum 1 (one) national/international peer-reviewed journals,
 - c. having actively worked for minimum 6 (six) months, in the field of apitherapy within the validity period of the certificate shall be renewed (duration of the certificate shall be extended for another seven years). The certificate-holders shall submit their documentation related to these criteria during the renewal application to the certification training providers that awarded the certificate to them.
2. Participants who do not fulfil at least one of the criteria in paragraph (1) need to take the certificate renewal exam and succeed.
3. The renewal exam shall be conducted as a theoretical exam consisting of multiple-choice questions prepared by the implementers of the Apitherapy Certification Training Program in line with the recent developments in the field and the subjects included in this training program under the coordination of the relevant unit of the Ministry.

4. The participants who score 70 (seventy) or more points in the renewal exam shall be deemed successful and the duration of their certificates shall be extended for another 5 (five) years.
5. The certificates of the certificate-holders will be valid until the certificate renewal exam process is completed.
6. The certificates of those who fail to attend the certificate renewal exam twice in a row shall be deemed invalid, except in cases of legally acceptable excuses. Following the end of the legally acceptable excuse, they shall be tested as soon as possible.
7. In cases when the training activities of the entity with the authorization to provide certification training program are stopped or its certification training provision authorization documents are cancelled for any reason or in cases of shut-down and transfer, the certificate renewal exams shall be conducted by the relevant unit of the Ministry.
8. The objections of the certificate-holders, who fail in the certificate renewal exam to the renewal exam results, shall be evaluated and concluded in maximum 5 (five) working days by the certificate renewal exam committee.

13. EQUIVALENCE APPLICATION AND PROCEDURES AND PRINCIPLES OF EQUIVALENCE PROCESSES

13.1. Equivalence Application

Equivalence shall be requested by using the equivalence application form (Annex-2) prepared by the Ministry in line

with the provisions of the Regulation on Certification Training of the Ministry of Health. It is mandatory to submit all the documents specified in this form. Each section specified in this form shall be filled in detail, the original copies of the below-listed documents approved by the institution/organization which provides the training and the translation of the documents into Turkish by a certified translator if the training is received abroad shall be submitted as attachment to the form.

13.2. Documents to be attached to the Application Form:

1. A copy of the certificate approved by the authorized institution.
2. A copy of the Faculty of Medicine diploma approved by the authorized institution.
3. A copy of postgraduate education certificate approved by the authorized institution, if available.
4. A certified copy of Turkish Identification Card/ Foreign Identification Card and 2 (two) photographs.
5. All information and documentation related to the training curriculum specified in the 4th paragraph of the Application Form (the original of the document in the language of the training or the document and its translation into Turkish).
6. Document proving that physicians received at least 80 hours of theoretical and practical training as well as the Training Curriculum.
7. The applicant will be requested to submit a document which is received from the official health authority of the country of training or the head of mission of Turkey and shows that the Institution/Organization

tion/Private Law Legal Entity/Natural Person who/which provided the training and who/which is included in the 3rd paragraph of the Application Form is authorized to provide training.

8. The applicant will be requested to document that s/he resided in the country in which s/he received training for as long as the training duration with his/her passport or other official documents and the formally-commissioned officials will be requested to provide documentation proving that they were off duty in the said period.

13.3. How to carry out the Equivalence Procedures

1. The application files of those who apply for certificate equivalence shall be examined in line with the Apitherapy Certification Training Standards by a science committee to be set up by the relevant unit.
2. Applicants whose files are deemed suitable and sufficient shall be tested with theoretical and practice exam.
3. Applicants who score 70 (seventy) points or more out of 100 (one hundred) in the theoretical exam shall be deemed successful. Those who fail to score this minimum point in the theoretical exam shall be allowed to take the exam 2 (two) more times at maximum; those who cannot pass the exam are supposed to apply to the Apitherapy Certification Training Program.
4. Applicants who cannot pass the theoretical exam shall not be allowed to take the practice exam.
5. Applicants who score 70 (seventy) points or more out of 100 (one hun-

dred) in the practice exam shall be deemed successful. Those who fail to score this minimum point in the practice exam shall be allowed to take the exam 2 (two) more times at maximum; those who cannot pass these exams are supposed to apply to the Apitherapy Certification Training Program.

6. Certificate Equivalency Document shall be drawn up for applicants who pass the theoretical and practice exams.
7. Certificate Equivalency Document shall be registered by the Ministry of Health.

14. PROVISIONAL CLAUSE

Those who, before this standard is published, fulfill at least one of the following requirements as:

1. having minimum 2 (two) publications in national/international-indexed publications in the relevant field,
2. having published minimum one (1) book or two (2) chapters in a book in the relevant field,
3. having conducted postgraduate thesis study on the relevant field,
4. having worked as a researcher or executive in a scientific project supported by either a university or TUBITAK on the subject,
5. having worked as a postgraduate thesis supervisor on the subject, shall be awarded Apitherapy Certificate equivalence for one-time only on condition that they are evaluated by a committee established by the relevant unit of the Ministry without taking any exams if they apply to the Ministry within 6 (six) months as of the publication date of this standard.