

## Finding a Good Homeopathic Practitioner

“How do I find a good practitioner” This is one of the most frequent questions asked of National Center for Homeopathy and one of the most frequently asked questions at homeopathic introductory talks.

Directories of practitioners and members are published by the National Center for Homeopathy, American Institute of Homeopathy (MD's and DO's only), Homeopathic Academy of Naturopathic Physicians (ND's only) and the North American Society of Homeopaths. In addition, there are many web sites that list homeopathic practitioners.

The difficulty lies in finding who is good. Many who claim to be homeopathic practitioners, don't actually practice homeopathy. Others only practice a small amount of homeopathy and quickly steer their patients into other forms of alternative medicine. In the past, referrals were easy because the community was small and everyone knew each other. Now that we have grown so much as a homeopathic community, this is no longer possible.

The time-honored method of finding a homeopathic practitioner is word of mouth. The recommendation should be from someone you trust. This can be a problem however when you move to a new area or attempt to find a practitioner in an area with which you are unfamiliar. NCH Study Group Leaders (see the NCH Directory for more than 150 Affiliated Study Groups) or trusted homeopathic practitioners can often provide information about practitioners in a given area or region.

If you are seeking a practitioner, it is important to ask who is questions. You may wish to interview a variety of practitioners. Important issues to consider include fees, style of practice, years in practice, background, and training. There are many styles of homeopathic practice, including classical (single remedy) and complex (multiple remedy) homeopathy. Ultimately, there also must be a good fit between the practitioner and their potential patient. Someone may be a good homeopathic practitioner, but not the right one for you. Also, some practitioners may no longer be taking new patients.

To aid in this process, the homeopathic community has established certification boards. Certification should be distinguished from licensure. Licensure confers the legal right to practice. Some states license the practice of homeopathy. Licensure however is no measure of the quality of homeopathic practice. This is the purpose of certification. Certification indicates a minimum standard of quality for all diplomates of the certification process.

Currently there are a variety of certification boards in North America. This array of certification boards can be somewhat bewildering to the public. The Council for Homeopathic Certification confers a CCH (certified in classical homeopathy) and is open to all homeopathic practitioners. The North American Society of Homeopaths confers a RSHom (NA) (Registered with the Society of Homeopaths in North America) and is open to all homeopathic practitioners who are certified with the Council for Homeopathic Certification. The American Board of Homeotherapeutics confers the DHt (Diplomate in Homeotherapeutics) and is open to MD's and DO's only. The Homeopathic Academy of Naturopathic Physicians confers the DHANP (Diplomate of the Homeopathic Association for Naturopathic Physicians) and is open to ND's only. The National Board of Homeopathic Examiners confers a DHBNE (Diplomate of the National Board of Homeopathic Examiners) and is open to all licensed practitioners. The Academy of Veterinary Homeopathy confers the CVH (Certified Veterinary Homeopath) and is open to all licensed veterinary homeopaths. Efforts have begun at forming reciprocity amongst some of these organizations. This year a joint project of creating a certification directory has been made by the CHC, NASH, AIH and HANP. It contains a listing of all certified practitioners from these organizations. This directory can be found at [www.homeopathicdirectory.com](http://www.homeopathicdirectory.com).

The quality of the relationship between you and your homeopathic practitioner is essential. Take the time to find the right homeopathic practitioner for you.

Todd Rowe, MD (H)

