



ABN 69 088 314 818

THE AUSTRALIAN REGISTER OF HOMOEOPATHS LTD

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The Australian Register of Homoeopaths

Homoeoprophylaxis Statement

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Use of Homoeopathic Medicines for Prophylaxis

The Board acknowledges that:

- there has been significant clinical experience in the use of homoeopathic medicines for prophylaxis (prevention of infection) in certain circumstances
- public health authorities in Australia do not currently accept this experience as proof of efficacy
- not all Homoeopaths recommend homoeoprophylaxis.

The Board further acknowledges that there has not yet been sufficient scientific investigation of homoeopathic prophylaxis, and therefore supports further controlled ethical research into its use.

Practitioners should encourage their patients, parents and appropriate adults to exercise their right to make informed decisions. Health care professionals have the responsibility to provide advice based on balanced information gathered from a broad range of sources, or to refer to others if they feel unable to do so. For this reason, the Board recommends the following protocol to Homoeopaths: -

1. Homoeopaths may supply or prescribe homoeopathic medicines for prophylactic purposes only upon the request of patients in their care.
2. In the course of consultation, Homoeopaths must avoid exerting undue influence upon the patient's decision on the treatment of their choice. When asked for advice about immunisation or prophylaxis, practitioners should avoid giving directives and instead encourage their patients to inform themselves of potential options, from a wide range of sources. Practitioners must encourage patients to make their own informed decisions about their treatment choice, in the light of their own particular circumstances.
3. Public health authorities acknowledge that in some circumstances immunisation might have heightened risks for particular individuals. In such cases homoeoprophylaxis may be a reasonable alternative for the patient. Homoeoprophylaxis should not be recommended as a substitute for immunisation.
4. As outlined in the 'National Competency Standards for Homoeopathy' (HLTHOM9A – Provide Specific Homoeopathic Assessment and Care) practitioners are obliged to clarify their patients' expectations and the potential outcomes, and to provide information on infection control procedures, which include the NHMRC- recommended immunisations and management strategies for acute infections.



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5. Practitioners should document and date all discussions, advice and treatment with the patient. Prior to the provision of, or a prescription for, homoeopathic medicines for prophylactic purposes, the consent of the patient or appropriate adult should be obtained in writing. This written consent by the patient or appropriate adult must include a clear statement indicating the following:
- the patient understands that no prophylactic treatment guarantees immunity from infectious disease
 - the patient understands that evidence for the efficacy of homoeopathic prophylaxis is limited and is not accepted by public health authorities
 - the practitioner has informed the patient that there is a range of evidence and views in regard to homoeoprophylaxis
 - the patient has selected homoeoprophylaxis by free choice, not as a result of pressure from the practitioner.
- Homoeopaths must be familiar with the current edition of *The Australian Immunisation Handbook*, published by the *National Health and Medical Research Council* (NHMRC), and available from: <http://immunise.health.gov.au/handbook.htm>
 - Homoeopaths must be familiar with the legislation and reporting requirements for notifiable diseases in their State or Territory.



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Homoeoprophylaxis Consent Form

Date:.....

I, am the legal guardian/parent of

..... and I hereby declare that:

- I understand that no prophylactic treatment guarantees immunity from infectious disease
- I understand that evidence for the efficacy of homoeopathic prophylaxis is limited and is not accepted by public health authorities
- the practitioner has informed me that there is a range of evidence and views in regard to homoeoprophylaxis
- I have selected homoeoprophylaxis by free and informed choice, not as a result of pressure from the practitioner.
- The practitioner has made me aware of the NHMRC guidelines and management strategies for acute infectious childhood illnesses.

Signed.....(guardian/parent)

Signed.....(practitioner)