



AUSTRALIAN REGISTER OF HOMŒOPATHS LTD

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Australian Register of Homoeopaths

Statement on the use of Homoeopathic remedies for prophylaxis

Prophylaxis is a “measure(s) designed to preserve health (as of an individual or of society) and prevent the spread of disease” (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prophylaxis>). Using potentised homoeopathic medicines for prophylaxis is referred to as homoeoprophylaxis (HP). Homoeopathic medicines selected and administered based on the anticipated symptoms of recognised infectious diseases may prevent or mitigate the symptoms of certain infectious diseases. (ATAGI, 2018)

Some infectious diseases are recognised as a public health concern and local governments may advocate or enforce specific treatment or preventative measures. HP is not considered by the Australian government as an alternative to vaccination for the prevention of serious infectious diseases. (NCIRS, 2014)

Vaccination results in the production of antibodies whereas the mode of action of HP is not known or understood. The Australian Government does not acknowledge any scientific nor empirical evidence for HP. (Taylor, 2001)

AROH supports the use of homoeopathy for improving the overall health of patients, and, where homoeoprophylaxis is provided by a practitioner, requires that the practitioner operates within their scope of practice.

The purpose of this statement is to help practitioners provide guidance to clients to enable the client to make an informed decision regarding any use of homoeopathy as a prophylactic intervention.

- Practitioners should enable clients who request homoeoprophylaxis (both parents of children, carers and adults) to make informed decisions about the suitability or not of homoeoprophylaxis.
- Practitioners should avoid giving directives.
- Practitioners should provide balanced information gathered from a broad range of sources (see **Appendix 2**). The information should be sufficiently exhaustive to enable the client to make an informed, critically analysed decision regarding their treatment.
- Practitioners should advise their patients to consult with their General Practitioner (GP) regarding vaccination or other preventative health measures outside of the scope of homoeopathic practice.
- Practitioners must document and date all discussions, advice and treatment provided.
- Practitioners are advised to obtain and maintain a signed statement (see **Appendix 1**) by the client, legal guardian or carer(s). In case of a child, AROH advises that all legal guardians sign the statement.
- Practitioners are advised to report cases of suspected notifiable diseases in their jurisdiction to the patient’s primary health carer or GP.

- Practitioners providing HP are advised to maintain currency of knowledge regarding nature of infectious diseases and their associated complications. This will enable the practitioner to provide considered advice to the client.

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AROH recommends that the reader access these sources to gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject.

Reference list

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Appendix 1

Patient Consent Statement for Homoeoprophylaxis for Dependents

I, _____

the legal guardian/parent of _____

hereby declare that:

I have carefully considered relevant information and discussed homoeoprophylaxis with the homoeopathic practitioner, _____, AROH registration number _____ .

I have discussed preventative healthcare measures with my General Practitioner or other relevant registered Medical Practitioner.

.....

I understand:

- that the use of homoeoprophylaxis does not guarantee immunity from any infectious disease,
- that the use of homoeoprophylaxis does not result in serological evidence like antibody production.
- evidence for efficacy and effectiveness of homoeoprophylaxis is limited and not accepted by Australian public health authorities

I choose to undergo homoeoprophylaxis by free and informed choice, not as a result of coercion or intimidation from the practitioner.

Name _____

Signature _____

Parents/Legal Guardian(s)

Name _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Witness

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Patient Consent Statement for Homoeoprophylaxis

I, _____

hereby declare that:

I have carefully considered relevant information and discussed homoeoprophylaxis with the homoeopathic practitioner, _____, AROH registration number _____ .

I have discussed preventative healthcare measures with my General Practitioner or other relevant registered Medical Practitioner.

.....

I understand:

- that the use of homoeoprophylaxis does not guarantee immunity from any infectious disease,
- that the use of homoeoprophylaxis does not result in serological evidence like antibody production.
- evidence for efficacy and effectiveness of homoeoprophylaxis is limited and not accepted by Australian public health authorities

I choose to undergo homoeoprophylaxis by free and informed choice, not as a result of coercion or intimidation from the practitioner.

Name _____

Signature _____

Witness

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Appendix: 2 - Recommended Reading

- Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). *Australian Immunisation Handbook*, Australian Government Department of Health, Canberra, (2018), immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au. <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/the-australian-immunisation-handbook>
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