

<b>Holland Bloorview</b> Kids Rehabilitation Hospital	Manual Corporate	Cluster Medical Administration
	Theme Admissions Processes	Number 00959
Use of Complementary and Alternative Therapies		

## Preamble

A complementary or alternative therapy is defined as a healing resource that encompasses all health systems, modalities and practices and their accompanying theories and beliefs, other than those intrinsic to the politically dominant health system of a particular society or culture in a given historical period. CAM includes all such practices and ideas self-defined by their users as preventing or treating illness or promoting health and well-being (National Institute of Health, U.S.A.)

A distinction is made in the literature between complementary and alternative therapies. Complementary therapies are used as an adjunct to conventional treatments whereas alternative therapies are considered a true replacement. Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital is committed to evidence-based practice and the highest possible standards for client care. Consequently, a preferred treatment is one that has been evaluated to be effective regardless of whether the treatment is considered conventional or complementary/alternative.

## Policy Statement

The Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital recognizes that clients and families, prior to coming to our Hospital, may be using complementary remedies and or therapies for their care and that they may want to continue to use these remedies as prior to their admission. Medicine, nursing, pharmacy and other therapies will accommodate a client's/ family's request as much as possible in order that the client may benefit from a complementary remedy/ therapy during their stay at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

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**Procedure:**

**Provision of Complementary Alternative Medicine therapy by non-Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital practitioner at request of client/parent**

There may be circumstances where an external practitioner is requested by a client or family to provide a particular therapy at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. It is the intent of the hospital to respect a family’s choice wherever feasible and to collaborate on issues related to planning and delivering the care.

All such treatments, regardless of whether they are products or services, must have the approval of relevant members of the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital health care team such as the responsible physician and nurse. All health care practitioners have a duty to act in the best interests of the client. This duty supersedes any obligation to accommodate a client’s/parent’s request for a particular form of treatment. For example, a physician is under no obligation to approve CAM therapies that he or she feels are inappropriate or harmful. Similarly, unless nurses freely agree, they are not expected to participate in the provision of CAM treatments by outside practitioners, including the administration of substances by any route. For example, nurses may agree, but are not required, to teach and/or observe a technique for the safe administration of a substance via a nasogastric tube.

Decisions regarding the approval for any CAM therapy should be documented in the client’s chart (Meditech) including the details of any plan and/or assistance provided. This is to ensure the safety of the client and an integrated plan of care.

The client (if competent) or parent/substitute decision-maker must sign a waiver absolving the hospital of any liability if they request to bring a CAM practitioner into the hospital. As Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital will not supervise an external practitioner, family members must be present when treatments are provided. See Appendix A for a copy of the Bloorview Kids Rehab Waiver.

CAMT practitioners must document any therapeutic interventions on available forms as they do not have access to the client’s chart. See Appendix B for a copy of CAM Documentation Form. Access to the client’s chart for information purposes can be provided only with the signed consent of the client or parent and approval of the responsible physician.

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital does not pay for complementary or alternative therapies. It is the responsibility of the client or family to pay expenses associated with receiving these therapies.

**Providing direction to clients/families seeking information**

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital health care professionals may provide assistance to clients and families seeking information about complementary and alternative therapies without implicitly recommending them. Staffs’ knowledge and comfort should guide their efforts.

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**Request from supplier to introduce a product or service to the hospital**

All requests from external suppliers to provide complementary or alternative products/services to the hospital should be directed to the professional advisor of the appropriate discipline. In the event that it is unclear, requests would be directed to the Vice President, Medicine and Academic Affairs for triaging.

**Initiation and provision of CAM therapy by a Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital health care practitioner**

Members of the health care team may wish to provide a complementary or alternative therapy. Health care practitioners must understand their professional accountability in these situations

and their responsibility to provide all treatments in a competent manner.

When considering whether it is appropriate to provide these therapies, a health care professional should consider the following questions.

- i. Do I have the knowledge, skill, and judgment to assess the appropriateness of providing this therapy for this particular client?
- ii. Is the client/family informed about the complementary therapy (and in agreement with its use)?
- iii. Do I have the required knowledge, skill, and judgment to provide this therapy safely and effectively?
- iv. Do I understand and can I deal with the possible outcomes of this therapy?

Approval is required from:

- 1) The relevant Chief ( i.e.: Nursing, Medicine, Professional Services,) and
- 2) The responsible physician and
- 3) Any key members of the health care team

All health care professionals must practice in accordance with any guidelines set by their respective College.

Any decision to use a complementary or alternative therapy should be made in collaboration with appropriate members of the health care team, which includes the client and family, and be incorporated into the overall plan of care.

Informed consent is required in all circumstances. Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital health care professionals must reach a conventional assessment or diagnosis in the usual manner and advise the client/parent of the conventional treatment options, their risks, benefits, and efficacy as reflected by current knowledge. For the purposes of these guidelines, a differentiation is made between use of a complementary or alternative treatment for a specific client on an exceptional or innovative basis and their use as a regular component of treatment with particular groups of clients.

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**PROVISION OF COMPLEMENTARY ALTERNATIVE MEDICATIONS/ REMEDIES AT THE REQUEST OF CLIENT/ PARENT**

There may be circumstances where a client or family may request administration of a particular complementary alternative medication/ remedy at the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. It is the intent of the hospital to respect a family's choice wherever feasible and to collaborate on issues related to planning and administration of the medication/ remedy.

The client/family is requested to provide information to the physician, pharmacist or nursing staff about these remedies they wish to use. The information should include the name, strength, dose and pertinent information regarding their therapeutic use, side effects as well as the name of the person who prescribed the remedy, if applicable.

The pharmacist, physician, and nurse will obtain information about the complementary remedy regarding the recommended dose, therapeutic use, potential side effects, drug interactions and toxicities et cetera, and shares this information with the team, client/family as appropriate. If a therapy has been prescribed by a naturopath or physician, then he/she will be contacted.

All efforts will be made to obtain as much information as possible.

The physician, pharmacist or nurse discuss with the client and/or family the benefits and risks related to the use of the product, if known.

Only if the physician is prepared to accept responsibility for the remedy as part of the client's treatment program, or if the physician is satisfied that the remedy poses no risk to the client, then the physician, after discussion with nursing staff and the team, will write an order for administration by the nursing staff or allow administration by the family or client him/herself. (Refer to family administering medications to their child and self Medication Administration policies #5).

In situations where a physician is unfamiliar with the herbal remedy and/or unaware of the potential consequences and/or side effects of such an alternative therapy, it would be inappropriate for that physician to write an order for administration by the nursing staff.

The client/family must supply the remedy at his/her own expense.

If a client/family wishes to use complementary remedies, it is preferred that the client/family administer these remedies, if possible. Appropriate documentation will be made of date, time and frequency on the medication administration records.

If the client or family is not able to administer this remedy themselves, then the nursing staff may do so, with the provision that a doctors' order is written for that remedy. The nurse will be provided information with respect to the drug, recommended dose and side effects.

The client and/or family will sign a consent form for the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, absolving the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital of any legal responsibility of untoward effects that may occur as a result of this complementary remedy.

If the information regarding the complementary remedy shows that it may be harmful to the

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client or interact with any current medication that the client is being prescribed for his/her condition, then the physician, client and family and nursing staff must be alerted.

If at any point in the client’s treatment, the physician decides that this complementary remedy is detrimental to the client’s health or therapy, it will be discontinued. The physician, nurse or pharmacist informs the client/family of the actual or potential adverse effects of the remedy and states the reason for the discontinuation.

**RELATED ISSUES AND PROCEDURES**

**Endorsements**

Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital does not endorse services, organizations, or products. Consequently, use of complementary/alternative services or products at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital does not constitute endorsement.

**Reporting to the Children’s Aid Society**

A child may be deemed in need of protection if:

- a. parents are refusing a conventional treatment with demonstrated effectiveness in favour of an alternative approach with ineffective or unproved results,
- b. parents plan to continue a complementary treatment that is known to be harmful or may interact in a negative manner with the conventional treatment. In these situations, every effort must be made to inform the parents about the risks to the client and to help them make an informed decision. If these efforts are unsuccessful and concerns persist, a referral to the Children’s Aid Society is indicated.

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External Link(s) - Click on the title(s) below to open the link.

Appendix A: Waiver of Liability in Respect of Complementary or Alternative Therapy

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<b>Policy Lead</b>	<b>Issued Date</b>
Golda Milo-Manson	Dec 01, 2003
<b>Committee Chair</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
Golda Milo-Manson	Mar 08, 2021
<b>Committee Member(s)</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
	-
<b>Authorizer</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
Golda Milo-Manson	Mar 08, 2021
<b>Authorizer's Signature</b>	

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