

COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES

Swiss to recognise homeopathy as legitimate medicine

SOCIETY Health

24 Reuse article

See in other languages: 4

Like 37K Share: g+ t f e

MAR 29, 2016 - 19:26

The interior ministry has announced plans to give five complementary therapies including homeopathy the same status as conventional medicine.

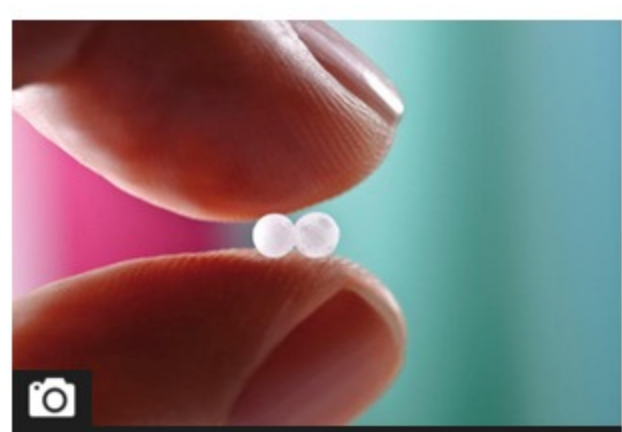
Homeopathy, holistic medicine, herbal medicine, acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine will acquire the same status as conventional medicine by May 2017 when it comes to health insurance.

After being rejected in 2005 by the authorities for lack of scientific proof of their efficacy, complementary and alternative medicines made a comeback in 2009 when two-thirds of Swiss backed their inclusion on the constitutional list of paid health services.



The ministry decided to give the five therapies the benefit of the doubt (Keystone)

As a result of the vote, these treatments are covered by basic services.



Complementary medicine
Complementary medicine offers a broad selection of therapies and treatments. Homeopathy, traditional Chinese medicine and holistic ...

See in other languages: 5

As a result of the vote, these treatments are covered by basic compulsory insurance as part of six-year trial period from 2012-2017. However, they were all required to prove their "efficacy, cost-effectiveness and suitability" by 2017.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the interior ministry said it had come to the conclusion that it was "impossible to provide such proof for these disciplines in their entirety".

They will thus be treated on a par with other medical disciplines, when it comes to health insurance.

The ministry plans to continue allowing reimbursements of treatment costs by compulsory health insurance, provided they are administered by certified medical doctors.

However, as is the practice for conventional medicine, certain controversial practices under these complementary therapies will be subjected to further scrutiny. The ministry has initiated a consultation process - open until June 30, 2016 - on the proposed modification of the regulations.

swissinfo.ch

There are 24 comments on this article.

Log In

You must be logged in to comment.

pedrostephano@me.com Mar 29, 2016 9:11 PM

While ever foolish people can be the witless victims of clever marketing, we need science and government to partner to protect them from villains and deceivers who wish to profit from their gullibility. Science has spoken, and the Swiss Government has answered "Oh, really?!" then gone with the majority view. Why?

You must be logged in to comment.

BMerizaldeMD Mar 30, 2016 3:42 AM

Because it is not science who has spoken, but so called scientists who have not followed the process of science and propagated false information. Science is a method, which calls for following the exact protocol of an experiment in order to replicate it, even when having doubt or skepticism; but if biased, there will be mistakes in the methodology. Scientists who have followed, judiciously, Hahnemann's protocol, through two centuries, around the world, have been able to replicate his findings. The data doesn't conform to the typical "one-medicine-one disease," in a DBPCS, because the medicines have to be individualized; those published studies that do show positive clinical effects against placebo or conventional medicines, results that are prejudicially diluted by poorly designed studies, have been done following the need to individualize the treatment not just to the condition but to the patient. Science still can stand up for the truth, if only bias and closed-mindedness are removed even while remaining skeptical. A mechanism of action should not be required to prove efficacy; refusing to perform research because such a mechanism, or its possibility, is considered improvable, is not scientific.

You must be logged in to comment.

Thommohr Mar 30, 2016 4:09 PM

You are completely wrong. First, not even Hahnemann's China bark experiment that led to the "discovery" of homeopathy was ever reproduced. How could it? China bark only causes fever in an allergic reaction. I.o.W. Hahnemann took a known remedy against Malaria (whose mechanism of action is now known and NOT homeopathic) observed an allergic reaction and draw the wrong conclusion. Crap in -> crap out. Second, a HUGE metastudy done by the Australian government came to the conclusion that homeopathy is placebo and nothing else.

You must be logged in to comment.

More...

Related Stories



Homeopathy gives rational voters a headache

By Thomas Stephens

Homeopathy and other alternative medicines are heading for the ballot box – but will the Swiss be voting for beneficial treatments or ...

5

SCI & TECH



HOLISTIC MEDICINE Ayurveda gets the nod from the Swiss government

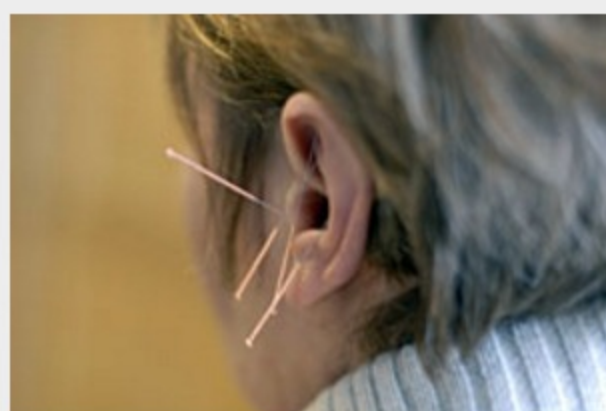
By Anand Chandrasekhar

Practitioners of traditional Indian medicine Ayurveda will soon be able to get a federally recognised national diploma after passing ...

2

IN DEPTH: INDIAN INTERSECTION

Health



Chinese medicine attracts healthy interest

People in Switzerland are increasingly turning to Chinese medicine to cure ailments such as back pain, asthma, allergies and stress ...



Alternative therapies are put to the test

By Jessica Dacey

The Swiss government has given complementary medicine a second chance to prove its worth as an insurable health cost. Interior ...

4

BUSINESS POLITICS