

# **CMBA regulatory examinations candidate handbook – multiple-choice question examination**

March 2025

# Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Overview of CMBA regulatory examinations .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Multiple-choice question examination .....	4
Objective structure clinical examination.....	4
<b>Examination result .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Multiple-choice question examination .....	5
<b>Examination repeats .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>MCQ Examination centres.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MCQ examination registration .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>MCQ Examination day procedure.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Reasonable adjustments .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Special consideration.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Procedural review of MCQ examinations .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Examination conduct and consequences of misconduct.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Complaints about MCQ examinations .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Recommended reference documents.....</b>	<b>10</b>
CMBA Professional capabilities .....	10
CMBA Registration Standards, Codes and Guidelines .....	10
Terminology and abbreviations used in the CMBA regulatory examinations .....	11

# Introduction

The *CMBA regulatory examinations candidate handbook – multiple-choice question examination* (the handbook) provides information about the multiple-choice question (MCQ) examination that is part of the assessment of overseas-qualified Chinese herbal medicine practitioners and acupuncturists who apply to register in Australia.

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (CMBA or the Board) has statutory responsibility under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (National Law), for deciding the outcome of applications for registration of Chinese medicine practitioners in Australia in the divisions of acupuncturists, Chinese herbal medicine practitioners, and Chinese herbal dispensers.

As part of assessing registration applications from overseas-qualified practitioners, each applicant's qualifications are assessed against the Board approved threshold requirements to identify if the candidate is qualified for general registration under section 53 of the National Law. More information about assessment of registration applications and the Board's approved threshold requirements are available on [CMBA website](#). Most overseas-qualified practitioners who apply to register in Australia and who are assessed as holding a qualification that is relevant but not substantially equivalent or based on similar competencies to an Australian-approved qualification (and who meet the mandatory registration standards) need to complete the CMBA regulatory examinations to qualify for general registration in Australia.

The Board uses the regulatory examinations to assess whether each candidate has the knowledge, clinical skills and professional attributes (as stated in the [Professional capabilities for Chinese medicine practitioners](#)) needed to safely and competently practise as an acupuncturist and/or Chinese herbal medicine practitioner in Australia. The Board may also require an individual to undertake an examination or assessment under the National Law when recency of practice or performance matters raise concerns about their competence to practise.

The CMBA regulatory examinations comprise a written examination (computer-based) consisting of scenario-based multiple-choice questions (MCQs), and an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). Candidates must successfully pass the MCQ examination to be eligible to do the OSCE.

The MCQ examination is designed to assess the candidates' ability to interpret information and make safe and effective clinical decisions. The OSCE is a practical and real-world approach and is designed to assess competence and clinical skill performance.

**Please note** - The Board has developed regulatory examinations for two divisions; acupuncturists, and Chinese herbal medicine practitioners. The Board does not currently hold regulatory examinations for Chinese herbal medicine dispensers.

## Ahpra

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) is the national organisation responsible for implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) across Australia.

Ahpra works with the 15 National Boards to help protect the public by regulating Australia's registered health practitioners. Together, Ahpra and the National Boards' primary role is to protect the public and set standards and policies that all registered health practitioners must meet.

## Chinese Medicine Board of Australia

The Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (CMBA or the Board) is one of the 15 National Boards that work in partnership with Ahpra to help protect the public by regulating Australia's registered acupuncturist and Chinese herbal medicine practitioners. The aim of the National Scheme is to protect the public by ensuring that only suitably trained and qualified practitioners who practise safely and ethically are registered.

The Board's regulatory functions include:

- developing standards, codes and guidelines for the Chinese medicine profession
- approving accreditation standards and accredited courses of study
- registering Chinese medicine practitioners and students
- handling notifications, complaints, investigations and disciplinary hearings, and
- overseeing assessment of overseas-qualified Chinese medicine practitioners who apply for registration as an acupuncturist or Chinese herbal medicine practitioner in Australia, and determining their suitability for registration

# Overview of CMBA regulatory examinations

## Multiple-choice question examination

The multiple-choice question (MCQ) examination is designed to assess the candidates' ability to interpret information and make safe and effective clinical decisions.

The multiple-choice questions (MCQs) are generally scenario-based and require candidates to interpret the features described in the scenario and make a decision about their actions in practice. Each scenario and question are followed by a set of four possible answers that include the best answer to the question. Candidates are required to select the best available option or the most correct answer. The examination for candidates applying for registration in the division of Chinese herbal medicine practitioners includes MCQs that test knowledge of commonly prescribed Chinese herbal medicine formulas. All answers will be scored as either right or wrong.

The MCQs assess the knowledge and application of knowledge relevant to competent and safe practice of Chinese medicine in Australia. The MCQ examination covers the following areas:

- Acupuncture practice (for candidates applying for registration in the division of acupuncturists)
- Chinese Herbal Medicine practice (for candidates applying for registration in the division of Chinese herbal medicine practitioners)
- Basic Chinese medicine theory and diagnosis in Chinese medicine practice
- Biomedical Sciences applied to Chinese medicine practice
- Safety, ethics and regulatory requirements for Chinese medicine practitioners in Australia

There will be 126 MCQs for the candidates applying for two divisions (Chinese herbal medicine practitioner and acupuncturist), and the time limit for the examination will be three hours. The candidates applying for one division (either Chinese herbal medicine practitioner or acupuncturist) have 96 items in the examination, and the time limit will be 2.5 hours. However, if a candidate has already qualified for registration in either acupuncture or Chinese herbal medicine, the Board may exempt the candidate from having to complete all items. Please refer to the Board's [regulatory exam policy](#) for repeat candidates or those applying for an additional division for further information.

Candidates can register to sit the MCQ examination at MCQ examination centres that are open in Australia, United States, United Kingdom, Canada, China, South Africa, Singapore, South Korea, New Zealand, Israel, Indonesia or Hong Kong. Some MCQ examination centres may be closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. The latest information about MCQ examination centre closures can be accessed [here](#).

The latest information about MCQ examination dates and fees, is available on [CMBA website](#).

## Objective structure clinical examination

Candidates who pass the MCQ examination, will be eligible to undertake the objective structured clinical examination (OSCE). The OSCE is conducted only in Melbourne, Australia.

The OSCE is a station-based examination, where candidates are allocated a defined amount of time at each station. Each station includes different tasks relating to a clinical scenario or clinical skill demonstration.

Candidates applying for registration in one division (either acupuncturist or Chinese herbal medicine practitioner) will be required to complete a seven-station OSCE. Candidates applying for registration in two divisions (acupuncturist and Chinese herbal medicine practitioner) will be required to complete a nine-station OSCE.

# Examination result

## Multiple-choice question examination

The MCQ examination result is pass/fail. One mark is awarded for each right answer, and there is no negative marking.

MCQ examination results will be finalised approximately six weeks after the date of the MCQ examination. Ahpra will advise candidates via email whether they have passed or failed the MCQ examination.

The MCQ examination centre staff do not have access to the examination results, and therefore no results are released at the MCQ examination centres.

MCQ examination results are valid for five (5) years from the date of the MCQ examination.

Candidates who pass the MCQ examination will be provided with information and access to the next step of the regulatory examination (the OSCE). Candidates who fail the MCQ examination will be provided with a report identifying the area(s) where they selected incorrect answers.

Candidates must ensure that the email address provided to Ahpra is reliable and checked regularly. Any change in contact details must be notified to Ahpra immediately [cmbaregulatoryexam@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:cmbaregulatoryexam@ahpra.gov.au).

	Area	Number of items in each areas and examination		
		CHM practitioner exam	Acupuncturist exam	CHM practitioner & acupuncturist exam
Clinical Domains	Acupuncture practice	-	30	30
	Chinese Herbal Medicine practice	30	-	30
	Basic Chinese medicine theory and diagnosis in Chinese medicine practice	30	30	30
	Biomedical Sciences applied to Chinese medicine practice	18	18	18
Safety Domain	Safety, ethics and regulatory requirements for Chinese medicine practitioners in Australia	18	18	18
Total		96 items	96 items	126 items

## Examination repeats

As per the Board's [regulatory exam policy](#) for repeat candidates or those applying for an additional division (regulatory exam policy), candidates may sit each Regulatory Examination up to five times for each division.

Candidates who fail the MCQ examination will be allowed to submit a new application for registration as a Chinese herbal medicine practitioner and/or acupuncturist and to repeat the MCQ examination(s) as a new applicant, provided they satisfy the repeat requirements under the Regulatory exam policy. When a candidate repeats an examination, they must complete all items relevant to the division they are applying for. Results from a candidate's previous attempt(s) will not be taken into consideration when determining the result of the candidate's repeat examination, unless they qualified for registration in either acupuncture or Chinese herbal medicine.

A candidate, who is eligible to re-sit the MCQ examination, must pay the relevant MCQ examination fees in full for each attempt. Candidates are encouraged to read the Board's Regulatory exam policy for further information.

As the MCQ examination sessions are scheduled for specific months, a candidate can sit the MCQ examination only when there is a scheduled session. No special arrangement in addition to the scheduled examination sessions will be arranged.

The Board and Ahpra recommend that candidates carefully consider the results of their previous examination(s) before deciding to repeat the examination.

More information: [CMBA regulatory exam policy for repeat candidates or those applying for an additional division](#)

## MCQ Examination centres

Candidates can register to sit the MCQ examination at MCQ examination centres that are open in Australia, United States, United Kingdom, Canada, China, South Africa, Singapore, South Korea, New Zealand, Israel, Indonesia or Hong Kong.

The latest information about examination centre closures can be accessed [here](#).

## MCQ examination registration

### MCQ examination fee

Candidates who Ahpra has assessed as eligible to sit the MCQ examination, must register and pay the MCQ examination fee online prior to the application closing date.

More MCQ examination fee information: [CMBA website](#)

### Registering for MCQ examination

Candidates are responsible for registering to sit the examination and attending the relevant MCQ examination centre on the correct day and time.

To sit the MCQ examination, eligible candidates must create an account on the examination portal hosted by Kryterion Global Testing Solutions (Kryterion). In order to be eligible, candidates must have a letter from Ahpra that requires them to sit the MCQ examination. Kryterion will verify with Ahpra that each candidate who creates an account is eligible to sit the MCQ examination. Once Ahpra has verified a candidate is eligible, the account will be activated, and the candidate can register to sit the MCQ examination through the Examination Portal.

To create an account and register for the MCQ examination, candidates will need to:

1. Create an account on the [examination portal](#). Once Ahpra has verified a candidate is eligible, the account will be activated.
2. The activated account will enable eligible candidates to register for the MCQ examination through the Examination Portal and pay the MCQ examination fee.
3. Candidates who register and pay will receive a confirmation email with the details of the MCQ examination date, examination centre and requirements (including authentication code) for the examination day.
4. Candidates will be required to present the 'authentication code' in the confirmation email when they arrive at the MCQ examination centre.

Candidates must advise Ahpra of any change in contact details, immediately by writing to [cmbaregulatoryexam@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:cmbaregulatoryexam@ahpra.gov.au)

### Cancelling an MCQ examination registration

Candidates who wish to cancel their registration for the MCQ examination must login to the Examination Portal and cancel at least 72 hours before the scheduled start time of the MCQ examination.

Kryterion may deduct a late fee from any refund if a candidate cancels within 72 hours of the scheduled start time of the MCQ examination.

Ahpra may require a candidate who cancels their registration for a scheduled MCQ examination to submit a new application for registration as a Chinese medicine practitioner and to re-register for the MCQ examination as a new applicant.

If a candidate cancels their scheduled MCQ examination less than 72 hours before the scheduled start time for the MCQ examination due to medical or compassionate reasons, the candidate must advise Ahpra of the reasons for not sitting the examination, before the scheduled start time of the examination.

Evidence supporting the candidate's reason for not attending the scheduled examination, such as a medical certificate or proof of compassionate circumstances, must be provided to Ahpra within 10 business days of the scheduled examination.

Medical and compassionate circumstances are approved at the discretion of Ahpra and if approved, the candidate will receive a full credit of the examination fee less an administrative fee.

If a candidate does not notify Ahpra that they are unable to attend their scheduled examination, or if a candidate does not complete the examination on the day, they will be considered to have failed that examination, unless special consideration is requested and granted under the *requests for special consideration policy*.

More information: [CMBA Multiple-choice question \(MCQ\) examination policy](#)

[Requests for special consideration for CMBA MCQ examination candidates](#)

# MCQ Examination day procedure

Candidates are advised to consider the following points prior to arriving at the MCQ examination centre for the scheduled MCQ examination session:

## Check-in and identification

1. Candidates are expected to arrive at the MCQ examination centre at least 15-20 minutes before the scheduled start time for the MCQ examination session.

Candidates who arrive at the MCQ examination centre up to 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for the MCQ examination session will be allowed to start the MCQ examination but will not be provided extra time to complete the examination regardless of the circumstances of their delay. Candidates who arrive at the MCQ examination centre more than 30 minutes after the scheduled start time for the MCQ examination, will not be permitted to enter the examinations area or start the MCQ examination and will forfeit their MCQ examination registration and fee. Subject to approval by the CMBA, the candidate may be allowed to re-register for the next available MCQ examination session and must pay another MCQ examination fee. The next available MCQ examination session may not be scheduled for up to six months.

2. Candidates are required to present a valid 'authentication code' from their confirmation email when they arrive at the MCQ examination centre.

Candidates who cannot present a valid authentication code will not be permitted to enter the MCQ examinations area and will forfeit their examination registration and fee. Subject to approval by the CMBA, the candidate may be allowed to re-register for the next available MCQ examination session and must pay another MCQ examination fee. The next available MCQ examination session may not be scheduled for up to six months.

3. Candidates are required to present a valid photo identification such as current driver's licence or passport and confirmation email on arrival at the MCQ examination centre. The first and last names printed on the photo identification must match exactly the first and last names on the confirmation email.

If the name on the photo identification presented does not match exactly the candidate's name provided when registering on the Examination Portal, the candidate will not be permitted to enter the MCQ examinations area and will forfeit their MCQ examination registration and fee. Subject to approval by the CMBA, the candidate may be allowed to re-register for the next available MCQ examination session and must pay another MCQ examination fee. The next available MCQ examination session may not be scheduled for up to six months.

4. Candidates are not allowed any electronic devices including mobile/smart phones, tablets, iPads, watches and other electronic devices within the MCQ examination area. Candidates will be required to store any electronic devices in sealable plastic bags provided by staff at the MCQ examination centre.

Candidates who refuse to store their electronic devices upon check-in will not be allowed into the MCQ examinations area.

5. Candidates are required to leave their personal belongings (including handbags, hats, gloves, scarves and coats) outside of the MCQ examinations area. Small, lockable storage is available; and candidates will not be allowed to access any prohibited personal items at any time during the MCQ examination.

6. In addition to using the authentication code to verify their registration to sit the MCQ examination, candidates will be required to agree to a set of terms and conditions to keep the MCQ examination questions confidential. By accepting this agreement candidates will confirm eligibility to undertake the MCQ examination and acceptance of the MCQ examination rules. Candidates will be asked to sign or accept a statement similar to the following:

*This exam is confidential and proprietary. It is made available to you, the examinee, solely for the purpose of assessing your proficiency level in the skill areas referenced in the title of this exam. To protect the integrity of the exams, the examinee must adhere to strict guidelines. The examinee shall not disclose to any third party the contents of this exam, including but not limited to questions, form of questions, or answers, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, verbal or written, electronic or mechanical, for any purpose. I have read and agree to the terms of the above statement.*

Candidates who do not sign or accept the terms and conditions in the statement will not be permitted to start the MCQ examination and will forfeit their MCQ examination registration and fee.

## During the examination

1. Candidates are not allowed to bring any study material into the MCQ examinations area. Candidates must note that this is a 'closed-book examination'.
2. Candidates are not allowed to communicate with each other once they have entered the MCQ examinations area. Candidates who fail to comply will be removed, their examination will be cancelled, and they will forfeit their MCQ examination fee.



3. Candidates must not write any prompting material on their skin or other objects before or during the examination. Candidates must not take any material including any notes from the MCQ examination when they leave. All documentation required as part of the MCQ examination must be left at the candidate's testing station.
4. Once the MCQ examination has started, there are no scheduled breaks for candidates to use the bathroom. If a candidate needs to use the bathroom during the MCQ examination, they must advise the supervisor and will be escorted. Candidates must note that any time spent on a bathroom break counts as testing time and they will not be provided extra time to complete the MCQ examination regardless of the circumstances of the bathroom break. Examination conditions apply at all times.
5. Candidates who need to leave the MCQ examination room temporarily must be accompanied by a supervisor. The candidate should raise their hand if they require the attention of a supervisor.
6. Candidates who complete the MCQ examination early will not be permitted to leave the MCQ examinations area until they have been instructed to do so.

### Confidentiality

1. Candidates are required to agree to the terms related to confidentiality and security before each MCQ examination session.
2. Candidates must agree to maintain confidentiality of the MCQ examination content and processes during and after the examination; including posting or discussing questions or responses on the internet or any form of social media after the MCQ examination.
3. Candidates must not reconstruct MCQ examination items using their memory of the examination or the memory of others.
4. Candidates must not remove MCQ examination items and/or responses (in any format) or notes about the examination from the MCQ examinations area. Writing on any materials or skin is strictly prohibited and will result in an incident report and results will be placed on hold.
5. If candidates are aware that the confidentiality requirements have been breached, they must advise Ahpra immediately and must comply with any investigation (and follow-up investigation) that needs to be conducted.
6. Any candidate who attempts to record or supply material relating to the MCQ examinations will not be permitted to continue with the examination. They will forfeit their MCQ examination registration and fee.

### Other

1. Candidates are not permitted any food or drink in the examinations area. Candidates will only be allowed to bring clear water bottles.
2. Candidate's family, friends, relatives or support people will not be admitted into the examinations area.
3. If a candidate is unable to continue with the examination for any reason, they must notify the supervisor. The assessment of the candidate must end, and an overall fail result will apply. They will forfeit their examination fee.
4. Candidates must not tamper with the computer or use it for any function other than taking the MCQ examination.

If any technical problem or circumstances arises, the candidate must notify the supervisor immediately by raising their hand. If the technical problem is causing the candidate to wait more than 30 minutes after the scheduled start time or a restart delay lasts longer than 30 minutes, the candidate will be given the choice of continuing to wait or re-registering for a re-scheduled MCQ examination session without an additional fee. The rescheduled MCQ examination session will be held as soon as operationally possible.

More information: [CMBA Multiple-choice question \(MCQ\) examination delivery policy](#)

## Reasonable adjustments

Reasonable adjustments (also known as testing accommodations) are special arrangements for the administration of the examination to provide candidates with disabilities (physical or mental impairment) full access to the examination where possible. Adjustments must be made in line with the inherent requirements for Chinese medicine practice in Australia and must not compromise the integrity of the MCQ examination. The expected level of competence is the same for all candidates and cannot change as part of a reasonable adjustment arrangement.

Candidates must submit a request for reasonable adjustments to Ahpra at the time of registering for the CMBA regulatory examination, or as soon as practicable after registering, and no later than 30 business days prior to the scheduled MCQ examination date in accordance with the examinations policy.

The candidate requesting reasonable adjustments must write and present supporting documentation to [cmbaregulatoryexam@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:cmbaregulatoryexam@ahpra.gov.au). Appropriate documentation supporting the request for adjustments must be provided by the candidate at the time of the request and must include, at a minimum, a letter from a registered medical practitioner describing the candidate's disability/impairment and recommendations for reasonable adjustments with a stated rationale as to why the medical practitioner considers the requested adjustments are necessary and appropriate for the disability/impairment..

If the request relates to a diagnosed disability or impairment, the candidate must arrange for results of diagnostic testing and/or a report to be submitted by a qualified professional with expertise in the area of the diagnosed disability or impairment. The report (or supporting documentation) could include:



- A history of the disability/impairment and any past adjustment(s) granted to the candidate, as well as a description of the impact that the disability or impairment has on the individual's functioning
- Identification of the specific standardised and professionally recognised test/assessments given (e.g., Woodcock-Johnson, Weschler Adult Intelligence Scale)
- The scores resulting from testing, interpretation of the scores and evaluations, and
- Recommendations for reasonable adjustments with a stated rationale as to why the recommended adjustments are necessary and appropriate for the diagnosed disability/impairment.

More information: [Requests for reasonable adjustments for CMBA MCQ examination candidates policy](#)

## Special consideration

Special consideration may be provided for a candidate in response to an adverse event(s) that prevented a candidate from attending or completing their scheduled examination.

In case of a natural disaster, for example, an earthquake, flood, or blizzard occurs, or the World Health Organisation declares a pandemic, candidates scheduled to sit the MCQ examination in affected areas may reschedule their MCQ examination without penalty (even if the examination centre is open for business). This is providing that the natural disaster or pandemic is verified by Ahpra.

In no circumstances will special consideration lead to an adjustment of the candidate's examination results.

Special consideration may be considered where a candidate is unable to attend or complete their scheduled examination due to exceptional circumstances beyond their control. Only those candidates who can demonstrate that they have reasons beyond their control are eligible for to apply for special consideration in accordance with the examinations policies.

Possible reasons include:

- acute illness (such as hospital admission, onset of serious illness)
- loss or bereavement (such as death of close family member)
- hardship or trauma (such as being a victim of crime, family violence, or severe disruption to domestic life)
- unforeseen call-up for service (such as military service, court appearance, Jury service, emergency service)
- work commitments and circumstances beyond their control (a letter on company/organisation letterhead from an employer confirming this must be provided)
- religious convictions (a letter from a religious leader must accompany the application)
- natural disaster, bomb threat or similar such event necessitating the evacuation of the candidate's home and/or the exam centre

Candidates must submit a request for special consideration in writing, prior to or within five business days following the scheduled examination session.

More information: [Requests for special consideration for CMBA MCQ examination candidates policy](#)

## Procedural review of MCQ examinations

Candidates may apply for a procedural review of an MCQ examination in accordance with the examinations policies in the following circumstances:

- a) the procedural requirements and instructions specified in the *CMBA regulatory examinations candidate handbook – multiple-choice question (MCQ) examination* (the MCQ examination handbook) were not followed to a significant extent, or
- b) the candidate's performance was adversely affected by significant deficiencies in the MCQ examination procedures beyond the control of the candidate.

The following matters are not reasons for applying for a procedural review of an MCQ examination:

- a) disagreement with the standards set by the CMBA for the examination in the *CMBA regulatory examinations candidate handbook – multiple-choice question (MCQ) examination* (the MCQ examination handbook)
- b) disagreement with the result of an MCQ examination or for any section of the MCQ examination, or
- c) personal or other reasons that affected the candidate's ability to undertake or prepare sufficiently for the MCQ examination.

Candidates must apply for a procedural review within 20 business days from the date they are advised of their examination result. Candidates must contact Ahpra directly to apply for a procedural review and pay the initial assessment fee before the application can be considered.

More information: [CMBA Multiple-choice question \(MCQ\) examinations procedural review policy](#)

## Examination conduct and consequences of misconduct

All candidates are expected to demonstrate courtesy and professionalism in all matters when interacting in writing or in person with Ahpra staff, examiners and other representatives that can include, but is not limited to other candidates, and staff at the examination centre.

Candidate must not engage in misconduct of any kind during the examination. Misconduct is defined in the Board's examination policies as, *'professional conduct that is of a lesser standard than that which might reasonably be expected of the health practitioner by the public or the practitioner's professional peers.'* A more extensive definition is available under section 5 of the National Law.

If a candidate engages in general misconduct, Ahpra may take action as set out in the Board's policy, including:

1. Authorising examination centre staff to ask the candidate to leave the MCQ examinations area.
2. Give the candidate a zero score for the MCQ examination in which the misconduct occurred.
3. Prohibit the candidate from undertaking further MCQ examinations.

A candidate who violates the MCQ examination policies or rules, or engages in irregular behaviour, misconduct and/or does not follow a warning or instruction by staff at the examination centre to discontinue inappropriate behaviour may be dismissed from the MCQ examination centre and their MCQ examination fee will not be refunded.

Additionally, the candidate's examination results may be withheld or cancelled and, if the candidate is a registered practitioner, a notification about the candidate's irregular behaviour or misconduct may be made to Ahpra.

Behaviours that constitute irregular behaviour or misconduct include but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving assistance of any kind during the MCQ examination.
- Using, accessing, or attempting to access any prohibited aids during the MCQ examination. Prohibited aids are any devices or materials that will be helpful in taking the examination. Examples of aids that are prohibited are electronic devices (e.g. cell/mobile/smart phones, tablets, smart watches, etc.), handheld calculators, conversion tables, dictionaries, etc.
- Attempting to sit the MCQ examination for someone else.
- Failing to follow instructions by examination centre staff.
- Creating a disturbance of any kind during the MCQ examination.
- Tampering with the operation of the computer or attempting to use it for any function other than taking the MCQ examination.
- Attempting to copy or record content from the MCQ examination.

More information: [CMBA Multiple-choice question \(MCQ\) examination misconduct policy](#)

## Complaints about MCQ examinations

Candidates can contact Ahpra directly by email to [cmbaregulatoryexam@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:cmbaregulatoryexam@ahpra.gov.au) to submit a complaint about the MCQ examination.

## Recommended reference documents

### CMBA Professional capabilities

All candidates must familiarise themselves with the [Chinese Medicine Board of Australia - Professional capabilities for Chinese medicine practitioners](#). The Board uses the regulatory examinations to assess whether each candidate has the knowledge, clinical skills and professional attributes (as stated in the [Professional capabilities for Chinese medicine practitioners](#)) needed to safely and competently practise as an acupuncturist and/or Chinese herbal medicine practitioner in Australia.

### CMBA Registration Standards, Codes and Guidelines

All candidates must familiarise themselves with the CMBA [registration standards, codes and guidelines](#). Knowledge and understanding of these documents may be examined as part of the CMBA regulatory examinations.

#### Guidelines for safe practice of Chinese herbal medicine practice

*Guidelines for safe practice of Chinese herbal medicine* (Guidelines) explain the CMBA's expectations of Chinese herbal medicine practitioners to provide safe Chinese herbal medicine services. They address a policy gap by providing clear guidance for practitioners to make sure there is clarity and transparency about the expectations of practitioners providing Chinese herbal medicine services.

The Guidelines require use of *pin yin* on all prescriptions and labels. The use of *pin yin* on all prescriptions and labels is the most suitable nomenclature to use in Chinese herbal medicine practice in Australia, and adequately protects public safety.

On the very rare occasions when there is a possibility that the use of *pin yin* alone may result in confusion, the *pin yin* should be used together with another name, such as the botanical (scientific) name or pharmaceutical name written in Roman script. The Guidelines also include information about some herbs which carry a risk of such confusion.

More information: [Guidelines for safe practice of Chinese herbal medicine](#)

## **Terminology and abbreviations used in the CMBA regulatory examinations**

All candidates must familiarise themselves with the terminology and nomenclature that are used in the guidelines for safe practice in Australia and will be used in the CMBA regulatory examinations.

Chapter 26 [Supplementary Chapter Traditional Medicine Conditions – Module I](#) in WHO International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 11th revision.

This supplementary chapter refers to disorders and patterns which originated in ancient Chinese medicine and are commonly used in China, Japan, Korea, and elsewhere around the world. This list represents a agreed set of harmonised traditional medicine conditions of the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean classifications. For an extended list of traditional medicine conditions, please refer to the International Classification of Traditional Medicine (ICTM).

[WHO International standard terminologies on traditional medicine in the Western Pacific region \(2007\).](#)

The number of commonly used terms in traditional medicine is estimated to be more than 4000, most of which are included in the 'WHO International Standard Terminologies on Traditional Medicine' book and is designed for use by students and clinical practitioners and researchers in the Western Pacific Region. The technical terms featured in this book are classified into eight categories: (1) General; (2) Basic Theories; (3) Diagnostics; (4) Disease; (5) Therapeutics; (6) Acupuncture and Moxibustion; (7) Medicinal Treatment; and (8) Classics.

### **Standard acupuncture nomenclature**

The nomenclature covers the 361 classical acupuncture points organised according to the fourteen meridians. Each entry gives the standardised name of the point in its three elements: an alphanumeric code derived from the English language translation of the meridian name, the Chinese phonetic alphabet (*pin yin*) name, and the Han (Chinese) character.

Further information: [Standard Acupuncture Nomenclature, second edition](#)

### **Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP)**

The Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP) is part of the Australian laws that apply to supply of herbs by Chinese medicine practitioners in Australia. All candidates must familiarise themselves with the herbs and ingredients that are identified in the SUSMP as being restricted from supply by a Chinese medicine practitioner in Australia.

[Further information: Australian Regulatory Guidelines for Listed Medicines and Registered Complementary Medicines](#)