

ATMS Modality:

Western Herbal Medicine

Definition of Treatment

Herbal medicine is the oldest and still the most widely used system of medicine in the world today. Herbal medicines act on the human physiology to influence bodily activity, enhance or inhibit organ function, and are prescribed with the aim of correcting imbalances and resolving patterns of dysfunction. For example, bitter substances found in certain herbs stimulate the production and release of digestive juices, thereby improving digestive function. Herbalists generally use whole plant extracts containing multiple constituents on the basis that these ingredients collectively reduce the side effects of any individual constituent and provide synergistic actions as well. Using several herbs together likewise achieves synergistic activity, enhanced efficacy, and reduced toxicity. Herbal Medicine supports holistic treatment, so prevention of disease is as important as the treatment of acute or chronic disease.



The assessment must include the development of a specific treatment plan as to the best course of treatment for the patient's condition/injury. This treatment plan forms the basis of the clinical notes. These notes must be consistent with the ATMS Code of Conduct, the Unregistered Health Practitioner Act and the additional requirements set by the health funds.

Health Fund	Educational Requirements	Provider Number
Australian Health Management	Completion of a university or government accredited Diploma, Advanced Diploma (HLT60107 or later equivalencies) or Bachelor Degree in Herbal Medicine which as a minimum consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 hours in herbal medicine • 400 hours in medical sciences, including anatomy and physiology, chemistry • 100 hours of clinical practice Qualifications completed by correspondence only and/or the clinical training not supervised will not be recognised. If practitioner holds overseas qualifications, they must at least equate to the required Australian qualifications.	Names of eligible ATMS members will be sent to AHM each month. Your ATMS Number will be your provider number, unless you wish to have online claiming. You will then need to contact AHM directly for the new provider number.
Australian Regional Health Group (ARHG) <i>Not all health funds under ARHG cover this modality.</i>	Completion of an Advanced Diploma of Western Herbal Medicine (HLT60102) or later equivalencies or a Bachelor of Western Herbal Medicine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must contain at least 200 hours of practical training included in the course before graduation. • Distance, online, virtual and other off-campus studies will not be recognised unless the following is completed on campus in face to face mode: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Practical components of all health science subjects which require skills based knowledge e.g. surface anatomy and palpation ○ Practical components of course modality specific subjects which require skills based knowledge e.g. case taking and clinical examination, assessment of conditions, treatment plans, therapeutics, tactile therapies, massage techniques and other associated therapeutics and techniques. ○ All student clinical practicum hours must be completed at the educational institutions on campus clinic facilities and cannot be outsourced to private clinics. ○ All examinations, tests and assessment of competency to be undertaken and marked by qualified staff on campus ○ Excluding clinical training units which must be completed on campus, at least 50% of remaining course units must be delivered physically on campus in face to face mode. • Practitioners who received their training prior to the implementation of the HLT qualifications (March 2002) will be accepted by ARHG if they can demonstrate that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They received (or upgraded) their qualifications in Australia ○ They have been in practice for at least the last four (4) years and ○ They have undertaken CPE, as per the membership requirements of their association, for a minimum four (4) year period. Does not accept overseas qualifications.	Details of eligible members, including member updates are sent to ARHG by ATMS monthly. The ARHG provider number is based on your ATMS number with additional lettering. To work out your ARHG provider number please follow these steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Add the letters AT to the front of your ATMS member number 2 If your ATMS number has five digits go to step 3. If it has two, three or four digits, you need to add enough zeros to the front to make it a five digit number (e.g. 123 becomes 00123). 3 Add the letter that corresponds to your accredited modality at the end of the provider number; W Western Herbal Medicine. If ATMS member 123 is accredited in Western Herbal Medicine, the ARHG provider number will be AT00123W.

Western Herbal Medicine Health Fund Requirements cont.

Health Fund	Educational Requirements	Provider Number
Australian Unity	Completed an Australian RTO Advanced Diploma of Western Herbal Medicine (HLT60102) or later equivalencies. or TEQSA approved Bachelor Degree course.	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to Australian Unity each month. ATMS members will need to contact Australian Unity on 1800 035 360 to register as a provider, after filling out the Australian Unity Application Form located on the ATMS website to activate their provider status. This only needs to happen the first time. Your ATMS number can be used as your Provider Number, or you can contact Australian Unity for your Australian Unity generated Provider Number.
BUPA	Completion of an Advanced Diploma of Western Herbal Medicine (HLT60102) or later equivalencies. Any educational qualifications substantially attained by distance only learning, online learning and external mode will not be recognised	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to BUPA on a weekly basis. BUPA will generate a Provider Number after receiving the list of eligible practitioners. BUPA advises ATMS of your Provider Number and ATMS will then advise those members directly.
CBHS Health Fund	Meets ATMS requirements.	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to CBHS each month. Your ATMS number will be your Provider Number.
Grand United	Practitioners need to apply directly and can contact health fund on 1800 249 966.	
HCF	Completion of an Advanced Diploma of Western Herbal Medicine (HLT60102) or later equivalencies and must include an adequate component of supervised clinical training. Courses delivered online or by distance education will not be accepted.	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to HCF on a weekly basis. Your ATMS number will be your Provider Number.
Medibank Private	Completion of a university or government accredited Diploma, Advanced Diploma (HLT60107 or later equivalencies) or Bachelor Degree in Herbal Medicine which as a minimum consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300 hours in herbal medicine • 400 hours in medical sciences, including anatomy and physiology, chemistry • 100 hours of clinical practice Qualifications completed by correspondence only and/or the clinical training not supervised will not be recognised. If practitioner holds overseas qualifications, they must at least equate to the required Australian qualifications.	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to Medibank Private on a monthly basis. Medibank Private generates Provider Numbers after receiving the list of eligible practitioners from ATMS. Medibank Private sends these provider numbers directly to your clinic address/es.
NIB	Completion of an Advanced Diploma of Western Herbal Medicine (HLT60107) or later equivalencies or a Bachelor of Western Herbal Medicine. <i>Western Herbalism consultations can be claimed by eligible nib members - however supplements, medication, herbs etc cannot be claimed.</i>	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to NIB on a weekly basis. Your ATMS Number will be your provider number, unless your client wishes to claim online. Your client will need to contact NIB directly or search by your surname and postcode on the NIB website www.nib.com.au for your provider number for online claiming purposes.