COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

COMMITTEE ON ACUPUNCTURE

POLICY 2021-02

COMMITTEE RECOGNITION OF DISCONTINUANCE OF USE

OF THE TERM “ORIENTAL”

December 9, 2021

The Committee on Acupuncture (Committee) within the Board of Registration in Medicine Board recognizes that in recent years, national organizations have taken steps towards discontinuance of the use of the term “oriental” in their names and in their standards, policies and procedures. In particular, the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM) adopted the name Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM), effective September 8, 2021. Similarly, the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM) adopted a name change in late 2020 to Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (CCAHM). In December 2020, the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) also issued a statement indicating that it was also examining a change of name. In all instances, the organizations note that the adoption of a new trade name is one step towards discontinuance of the use of the term oriental, and that other changes may take longer as a result of compliance with relevant laws and regulatory requirements.

This Committee’s regulations at 243 CMR 4.00 and 243 CMR 5.00 specify ACAHM and CCAHM organizations by their prior names and also specify NCCAOM. The regulations also use the term “oriental” in the following instances:

* 243 CMR 5.01(2), defining the practice of acupuncture (“traditional oriental medical theories” and adjunctive therapies including “oriental nutritional counseling”);
* 243 CMR 5.02(3) and 5.02(4), specifying NCCAOM certification and examination types;
* 243 CMR 5.03(2)(g) and 5.03(2)(h)1., specifying ACAOM accredited programs, and
* 243 CMR 5.09(1)(d) identifying other educational degrees and fields.

Until such time as the Committee’s regulations may be updated in accordance with M.G.L. c.30A, the Committee will interpret its regulations to apply to each of the organizations, and the credentials that they issue, by the corresponding new name that the organization has adopted.