

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AYURVEDA (ASA) (Proposed)

Action Plan for Ayurvedic Accreditation Body (AAB) and Ayurvedic Examination and Credentialing Body (AEC)

September 19, 2024

Introduction

Given the ongoing challenges faced by the Ayurvedic community, specifically related to discrepancies in education standards, certification levels, and accreditation, ASA has established two distinct yet complementary entities. These bodies are tasked with evaluating their respective domains and resolving differences in a way that fosters cohesion and uniformity across the field.

Action Plan for the Ayurvedic Accreditation Body (AAB)

Objective:

To create a unified and transparent accreditation framework that ensures the quality and consistency of Ayurvedic education across schools and institutions nationwide.

Plan Outline:

- **Evaluation of Existing Accreditation Systems:** A comprehensive review of current accreditation processes within Ayurvedic schools and institutions. Analyze gaps and inconsistencies in education standards.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage Ayurvedic schools, educational leaders, and practitioners to gather feedback on the existing accreditation system and areas needing reform.
- **Development of a Unified Accreditation Standard:** Create a standardized accreditation process that aligns with the educational needs of the profession while accommodating diverse traditions within Ayurveda.
- **Implementation Strategy:** Roll out the unified accreditation process across schools and institutions, with clear guidelines, timelines, and support to facilitate smooth transitions.
- **Ongoing Monitoring and Review:** Set up periodic reviews to ensure the accreditation standards remain relevant and effective. Create a feedback mechanism for continuous improvement.

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Action Plan for the Ayurvedic Examination and Credentialing Body (AECB)

Objective:

To develop a standardized, fair, and transparent examination and credentialing process that reflects the knowledge and skills required to practice Ayurveda professionally.

Plan Outline:

- **Assessment of Current Certification and Credentialing Practices:**
Evaluate the variety of certifications currently in place, identifying inconsistencies in credentialing across different states and institutions.
- **Establishment of Core Competency Standards:**
Define a clear set of competencies that an Ayurvedic practitioner must meet to be certified, ensuring that these standards align with both traditional practices and modern healthcare requirements.
- **Creation of a National Credentialing Exam:**
Develop a standardized national exam that reflects the core competencies and knowledge required for Ayurvedic practitioners. The exam should have transparent grading criteria and be accessible across the country.
- **Collaboration with Regulatory Bodies:**
Work with state and national health regulatory bodies to ensure the certification process aligns with broader healthcare laws and regulations.
- **Credentialing Renewal and Continuing Education:**
Create a process for renewing credentials, emphasizing continuous education and keeping practitioners updated with new developments in Ayurveda.

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Guidelines for a Cohesive Approach

1. **Independent Yet Collaborative Work:**

Both the Ayurvedic Accreditation Body and the Ayurvedic Examination and Credentialing Body, each comprising 7 nominated members as detailed in the following pages, must operate independently within their respective areas. However, they are expected to collaborate closely to ensure consistency, alignment, and mutual support across their initiatives.

2. **Creating a Unified and Harmonious Framework:**

The objective of these plans is to foster a cohesive and harmonious environment within the Ayurvedic community by directly addressing the key challenges related to education, certification, and credentialing.

3. **Comprehensive Plans Through Consensus:**

Each body is tasked with formulating its own comprehensive plan after thorough evaluation and discussion. These plans should ideally be approved through unanimous decisions. However, if consensus cannot be achieved, approval by a minimum of 75% majority vote is required.

4. **Monitoring and Resolution of Disputes:**

To oversee and guide the process, a **Mediation and Monitoring Committee (MMC)** of 11 nominated members from the Steering Committee, as listed below and in the attached document, has been established by the Ayurvedic Business Community (ABC). This committee will intervene to help resolve any impasse or dispute that arises within the bodies, striving for unanimous resolution but requiring no less than a 75% majority vote for any final decision.

5. **Commitment to a Common Goal:**

Each body will develop its approved plan with the commitment to working independently, without any outside influence, towards the common goal of unifying the Ayurvedic profession, aligning their efforts for the greater good of the community.

6. **Timely Completion and Presentation:**

Each body must finalize its agreed plan within 60 days from the initiation of this process. Once completed, the plans will be presented to the Steering Committee for review and approval, either unanimously or by no less than a 75% majority vote by the nominated steering committee members.

These approved plans created by Ayurvedic Accreditation Body (AAB) and Ayurvedic Examination and Credentialing Body (AEC) will serve as the guiding framework to advance the legal recognition of Ayurveda as a unified and credible field within the healthcare system.

**Compiled by
Ayurvedic Business Community (ABC)
09/15/2024**

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Participant Members

Nominated Members of The Ayurvedic Accreditation Body (AAB)

1	Anu Kizhakkeveetil
2	Pratima Kumar Musburger
3	Lisa Cavallaro
4	Jim Ventresca
5	Aparna Bapat
6	Sanjeev Kalra
7	Dr. Yashwant Pathak

Nominated Members of The Ayurvedic Examination and Credentialing Body (AECB)

1	S. Prasad Vinjamury
2	Hilary Garivaltis
3	Ashlesha Raut
4	Bharathi Venkatachalapathy
5	Vaidya Somesh N Kaushik
6	Vaidya Sujata Reddy
7	Dr. Renee Mehrra

ASA 11 Member Mediation and Monitoring Committee (MMC) from the Nominated Members of the Steering Committee of American Society of Ayurveda (ASA)

#	From	Nominated Members
1	ABC	Gary (Malkiat) Grewal
2	ABC	P. K. Dave
3	ABC	Harpinder Kaur
4	ABC	Virender Sodhi
5	APD	John Douillard
6	APD	Suhas Kshirsagar
7	ASEI	Jayarajan Kodikannath
8	ASEI	Marc Halpern
9	APC	Vivek Shanbhag
10	APC	Shekhar Annambhotla
11	ASEI	Manohar Palakurthi