

## **HBF Registration of Providers for Complementary and Alternative Therapies**

HBF fully supports the Commonwealth in its move towards standard, national quality assurance and accreditation for privately insured services. In particular, we are committed to ensuring that all services and programs delivered to our members not only meet minimum quality standards, but contribute positively to our members' health and well-being.

With effect from 1 July 2009, under Rule 10 of the Private Health Insurance (Accreditation) Rules 2008 (treatment provided by a health care provider who is not referred to in subrule 7(1) or rule 8 or 9), the standard for the provision of treatment is that the health care provider providing the treatment must be a member of a professional organisation which covers health care providers who provide that type of treatment (the 'Profession') and which:

- (a) is a national entity which has membership requirements for the profession; and
- (b) provides assessment of the health care provider in terms of the appropriate level of training and education required to practise in that profession; and
- (c) administers a continuing professional development scheme in which the health care provider is required, as a condition of membership, to participate; and
- (d) maintains a code of conduct which the health care provider must uphold in order to continue to be a member; and
- (e) maintains a formal disciplinary procedure, which includes a process to suspend or expel members, and an appropriate complaints resolution procedure.

Rule 10 relates to the following professions for which HBF currently pays a benefit:

Acupuncture  
Herbalists  
Homoeopathy  
Myotherapy  
Naturopathy  
Nutrition  
Reflexology  
Remedial Massage  
Traditional Chinese Medicine

HBF must at all times ensure compliance with applicable legislation and HBF Fund Rules. Processes are in place to satisfy HBF and demonstrate that every effort has been made to ensure an HBF benefit is only paid for services rendered by appropriately qualified and registered providers.

Providers are not automatically registered as HBF providers based solely on membership of an HBF Approved Association. For provider registration, each individual provider must apply to HBF in the format applicable at that time. If registered, HBF will issue a unique HBF provider number for the exclusive use of that provider for practice at a specific practice location. Providers are required to apply for a separate HBF provider number for each practice location.