



COUNCIL FOR  
HOMEOPATHIC CERTIFICATION

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## Health Sciences/Human Pathology Study Guide

Entry-level homeopathic practitioners should have basic familiarity with human disease conditions to avoid errors in practice or potentially serious medico-legal consequences. In addition, a working knowledge of pathology allows the homeopath to work more confidently with clients, health care practitioners, and the integrative health community. Sufficient knowledge of medical terminology, clinical pathophysiology, and therapeutics allows the practitioner to interface with clients and other practitioners about diagnosed conditions. With this knowledge, the homeopath is better able to learn more about medical conditions from the medical literature.

Pathology study recommendations are provided to ensure that applicants are prepared to perform well on the health sciences portion of the CHC exam. CHC ethical guidelines require practitioners to work within their own levels of capability and training. By providing this list of pathologies for students to study, the CHC does not assert, in any way, that candidates who become certified are prepared to work with all of these disease conditions. Each practitioner should seek appropriate mentoring and guidance when working with any disease condition new to his/her experience to ensure that the transition from factual knowledge to clinical application is appropriate for the client.

### Referrals

All practitioners, licensed or unlicensed, must be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of potentially serious or life-threatening illness. When homeopaths with knowledge of human disease encounter an undiagnosed condition, they are more capable of knowing when to refer immediately, to refer on non-emergency basis, or to treat homeopathically without referring, which may lead to "malpractice" challenges.

### Symptoms

Practitioners must understand the normal symptoms of common pathologies in order to identify individualizing and characteristic symptoms in the client that are so important to effective homeopathic remedy selection.

### Progression

In order to effectively manage client cases, an understanding of the normal progression of the pathology is necessary to determine if, and in what ways, the client is improving. It is important to know conditions that tend to resolve on their own, as well as those that tend to change from one state to another, regardless of homeopathic intervention.

## Therapeutics

Practitioners must be able to assess the appropriateness of homeopathy and other therapeutics, as well as his/her own limitations of competence, for the safety and benefit of the client. Each practitioner needs to be aware of the kinds of complaints that typically do or do not respond well to homeopathy and counsel his/her clients appropriately.

## Study Recommendations

CHC exam applicants should have knowledge of the pathologies listed in Table 2, as recommended in *The Standards for Homeopathic Education and Competencies for Homeopathic Practice* (S&C). Although no specific version of the exam will include all of the listed pathologies, the applicant should review all areas of study to build a more robust knowledge base for practice.

Table 2 provides an overview of typical presentations of urgent/acute complaints and routine/chronic complaints categorized by body system. While overlap exists between the body system involved and the nature of the complaint, (e.g. acute exacerbations of chronic complaints can appear as urgent), complaints are listed in the body system where they most likely appear.

This table arrangement minimizes duplications, provides order and coherency, and offers suggestion for study organization. Applicants should focus on the following areas of study:

- Typical signs and symptoms
- Typical predisposing conditions
- Progression of disease
- Use of typical diagnostic tests and therapeutics by condition

Study information is available in the [Certification Handbook](#) and also on many reliable websites:

- [www.merckmanuals.com](http://www.merckmanuals.com)
- [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)
- <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/DiseasesIndex/DiseasesIndex>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/DiseasesConditions/>

**Pathologies: Typical Presentations by Body System**

<b>BODY SYSTEM</b>	<b>URGENT/ACUTE</b>	<b>ROUTINE/CHRONIC</b>
<b>Infectious</b> (conditions not already listed in other categories)	HIV, sepsis, meningitis, encephalitis, mycoplasma infections (walking or atypical pneumonia), malaria, smallpox, anthrax	Influenza, common cold, mononucleosis, scarlet fever, pertussis, Fifth's disease, chlamydia, systemic candidiasis, monilliasis, trichomoniasis, amebiasis, giardiasis, hookworm, malaria (chronic)
<b>Malignancy</b>	Fever in immunosuppressed client, bleeding in thrombocytopenic client, acute spinal cord compression, intestinal obstruction, appropriate criteria for referral for any client suspected of having cancer	Recognition of signs and symptoms of common forms of cancer
<b>Immunology</b>	AIDS, anaphylaxis	Chronic fatigue immunodeficiency syndrome, environmental illness, systemic allergy, acquired and congenital immunodeficiency syndromes
<b>Skin</b>	Melanoma, third degree burn, second degree burn over large surface area, drug rash, erythema multiforme, gangrene, abscess, cellulitis, syphilis, petechiae	Eczema, psoriasis, seborrhea, nevi, boils, impetigo, monilial dermatitis, tinea (...capitis, corporis, cruris, pedis, versicolor), vitiligo, syphilis, varicella, herpes (...zoster, simplex), molluscum, rubella, rubeola, warts, scabies, lice, first and second degree burns over small areas, urticaria, contact dermatitis (Rhus dermatitis), acne, rosacea, alopecia, aphthousstomatitis, lipoma, keloid, dermatofibroma, hemangioma, insect bites, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, seborrheic keratosis, solar keratosis
<b>Gastrointestinal and Mouth and Nutritional / Metabolic</b>	Acute appendicitis, volvulus, intussusception, incarcerated hernia, acute abdomen and other surgical emergencies, upper and lower GI bleeding, acute hepatitis, acute pancreatitis, pyloric stenosis, acute cholecystitis, acute diarrhea, acute diverticulosis, acute parotitis, failure to thrive	Gall stones, flatulence, encopresis, constipation, chronic diarrhea, malabsorption syndromes, celiac disease, lactose intolerance, parasite infestation, hernia, peptic and duodenal ulcer, esophageal motility disorders, gastro-esophageal reflux, cirrhosis, acute gastroenteritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, irritable bowel syndrome, hemorrhoids, chronic hepatitis B, hepatitis C, chronic pancreatitis, diverticulosis, periodontal disease, dental abscess, caries, obesity, anorexia, B-12 deficiency, phenylketonuria
<b>Cardiovascular and Hematology</b>	Acute myocardial infarction, cardiac and aortic aneurysm, hypertensive crisis, endocarditis, unstable angina, pericarditis, pericardial tamponade, congestive heart failure, acute arrhythmia, acute deep vein thrombosis, cerebral aneurysm, disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC), immune thrombocytopenic pupura (ITP), thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP)	Hypertension, stable angina, chronic arrhythmia, coronary artery disease, valvular heart disease, congenital heart disease, cardiomyopathy, chronic congestive heart failure, peripheral vascular disease, superficial thrombophlebitis, carotid artery stenosis, cerebral aneurysm, Reynaud's syndrome, anemia (nutritional, hereditary, associated with systemic disease), polycythemia, thrombocytopenia, leukopenia
<b>Musculo-skeletal</b>	Fractures, acute rheumatic fever, septic arthritis (gonococcal, Lyme, etc), temporal arteritis, acute gouty arthritis	Strains, sprains, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, costochondritis, Reiter's syndrome, scleroderma, systemic lupus, erythematosus (SLE), polymyalgia rheumatica, polyarteritis nodosa, dermatomyositis/polymyositis, Sjogren's syndrome, ankylosing spondylitis, fibromyalgia, chronic Lyme disease, carpal tunnel syndrome, shin splints, back pain and other repetitive stress syndromes
<b>Endocrine</b>	Diabetic coma and ketosis, hyperthyroid crisis, acute hypoglycemia, thyroid nodule	Hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, diabetes mellitus, diabetes insipidus, Cushing's syndrome, Addison's disease, chronic hypoglycemia, thyroid enlargement, acromegaly
<b>Ophthalmology</b>	Retinal detachment, iritis, uveitis, corneal abrasion, papilledema, acute red eye, foreign body	Conjunctivitis, stye, blepharitis, Meibomian cyst, lachrymal duct obstruction, subconjunctival hemorrhage, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism, strabismus, cataract, ocular tumors, ocular migraine

BODY SYSTEM	URGENT/ACUTE	ROUTINE/CHRONIC
<b>Respiratory and Ear/Nose/Throat</b>	Peritonsillar abscess, epiglottitis, foreign bodies (eye, ear, nose, throat), streptococcal pharyngitis, mastoiditis, acute asthma, status asthmaticus, pneumonia, pulmonary embolus, pneumothorax, tuberculosis	Otitis (media, externa), mastoiditis, hearing disorders, epistaxis, adenoid and tonsillar hypertrophic pharyngitis, sinusitis, allergic rhinitis, croup, laryngitis, bronchitis, chronic asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pleurisy, tuberculosis, sarcoidosis, bronchiectasis, Meniere's disease, obstructive sleep apnea, occupational lung diseases (asbestosis, etc), carbon monoxide poisoning
<b>Neurological</b>	Stroke, subarachnoid hemorrhage, subdural hematoma, space occupying lesion / pathology, meningitis, encephalitis, cerebral abscess, skull fracture, vertebral fracture, Bell's palsy, trigeminal neuralgia	Headaches, post-concussive syndrome, vertigo, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, muscular dystrophy, peripheral neuropathy, sciatica, polio, vertebral disc disease, spinal stenosis, dementia, Parkinson's disease, cranial synostosis, Tourette's syndrome
<b>Psychiatric</b>	Suicidal or homicidal ideation, acute mania, acute psychosis, child abuse, spousal abuse, elder abuse, delirium	Post-traumatic stress syndrome, dissociative disorder, alcoholism, drug addiction, other substance abuse, bipolar disorders, psychosis, depression, grief reaction, obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, eating disorders, autism, Asperger's syndrome, verbal and non-verbal learning disorders, mental retardation, attention deficit disorder, dementia, somatization disorder, communication disorder (stutter, dyslexia, dysgraphia, etc), conduct disorder, tic disorders, sleep disorders, impulse control disorders, adjustment disorders
<b>Reproductive and Genitourinary</b>	Ectopic pregnancy, uterine hemorrhage, pelvic inflammatory disease, acute STD (gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, etc), toxemia of pregnancy, miscarriage, puerperal fever, pyelonephritis, kidney stones, testicular torsion, ovarian torsion, testicular cancer, acute renal failure, acute prostatitis, epididymitis	Pregnancy, nausea of pregnancy, hyperemesis gravidarum, bacterial vaginosis, vaginitis, HPV, cervical dysplasia, herpes simplex, vaginal atrophy, premenstrual syndrome, metrorrhagia, menopause, endometriosis, ovarian cyst, polycystic ovarian syndrome, amenorrhea, infertility, uterine prolapse, fibroids, infertility, breast lump, mastitis, sexual dysfunction (anorgasmia, impotence), enuresis, urinary tract infection, incontinence, inguinal hernia, femoral hernia, chronic renal failure, chronic prostatitis
<b>Pediatric</b> (conditions not already listed in other categories)	Congenital heart disorders, congenital gastrointestinal disease, newborn hyperbilirubinemia, fetal alcohol syndrome or drug withdrawal, child abuse	Lachrymal duct obstruction, herpangina, accident prevention, immunization, pica, lead poisoning, worms, cerebral palsy, atopic disease, developmental delay, anticipatory guidance, congenital hip dislocation, club foot