

Regulations No. 1500 of 11 December 2003 regarding a voluntary registration scheme for practitioners of alternative treatment

Issued by the Ministry of Health on 11 December 2003 in pursuance of Section 3 of Act No. 64 of 27 June 2003 relating to alternative treatment of disease, illness, etc.

Section 1 *Objective*

The registration scheme for practitioners of alternative treatment shall contribute to greater safeguarding of patient safety and consumer rights for persons consulting a registered alternative therapist, and also contribute to seriousness and business-like orderliness among practitioners of alternative treatment.

Section 2 *Voluntary registration*

The Brønnøysund Register Centre shall establish and operate a register in which practitioners of alternative treatment may be registered. To qualify for registration, a practitioner must be a member of a professional organisation of practitioners that has been approved in accordance with Section 3 and they must also fulfil the conditions in Section 5.

Section 3 *Approval of practitioners' organisations*

The Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Affairs may approve applications from practitioners' organisations for inclusion in the voluntary registration scheme as mentioned in Section 2, provided that the organisation:

1. has statutes setting professional qualifications for persons wishing to become members
2. has statutes setting ethical rules with which its members are obliged to comply in practising their profession
3. has laid down in its statutes that members must undertake to manage their activities in a professionally responsible manner
4. has laid down in its statutes that members must undertake to give the necessary information to the patient
5. has laid down in its statutes that members must undertake to handle health and personal data in a professionally responsible manner
6. has laid down in its statutes the right for patients to complain about the professional behaviour of its members. Complaints shall be dealt with by a professional ethics committee or by a complaints committee established for this purpose
7. has laid down in its statutes the possibility of excluding members on specified grounds
8. has at least thirty members
9. is registered in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities.

If special circumstances exist, the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs may approve organisations of practitioners which have fewer members than stipulated in the first paragraph, item 8.

Any organisation of practitioners whose application for approval has been rejected may appeal against this decision to the Ministry of Health. In the event of such an appeal, the provisions in Act of 10 February 1967 relating to procedure in cases concerning public administration shall apply.

After obtaining an opinion from the organisation of practitioners in question, the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs may withdraw a previously granted approval wholly or partially, if the conditions for approval no longer exist. A decision to withdraw approval may be appealed to the Ministry of Health. In the event of such an appeal, the provisions in Act of 10 February 1967 relating to procedure in cases concerning public administration shall apply.

The Directorate for Health and Social Affairs shall notify the Brønnøysund Register Centre of the organisations of practitioners which have been approved pursuant to this Section.

Section 4 *Obligations of approved practitioners' organisations*

Organisations of practitioners which have been approved pursuant to Section 3 are obliged to notify the Brønnøysund Register Centre immediately if a registered member no longer fulfils the conditions for registration.

Section 5 *Conditions for registration of practitioners*

The Brønnøysund Register Centre shall register practitioners of alternative treatment in the register, provided that:

1. it has been documented that the practitioner is a member of a professional organisation which has been approved pursuant to Section 3. The practitioner shall state the organisation number, name and address of the practitioner's organisation.
2. the practitioner is either:
 - a) registered as a self-employed person in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities
 - b) a partner in a general partnership registered in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities, or
 - c) employed by an employer registered in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities. Documentation must be produced of the employment agreement.
3. the practitioner has submitted documentation that he/she has valid insurance for any financial liability to patients that may arise in connection with the practitioner's activity, or confirmation of employment and documentation that the practitioner's activity are covered by the employer's insurance or security furnished by the employer.
4. the practitioner has supplied his/her personal identity number or D-number, name and home address, and the organisation number, name and address of the entity where the alternative treatment is practised.
5. the practitioner has supplied the title or form of treatment under which the practitioner wishes to be registered.

The Brønnøysund Register Centre may, in special cases, register a practitioner of alternative treatment if the practitioner is able to document the existence of a connection similar to those listed in the first paragraph, 2 a)-c) to an enterprise that is registered in the Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities.

A decision not to allow registration may be appealed to the Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Affairs. In the event of such an appeal, the provisions in Act of 10 February 1967 relating to procedure in cases concerning public administration shall apply.

Section 6 *Obligations of registered practitioners of alternative treatment*

Registered practitioners are obliged to:

1. pay an annual fee as stipulated in Section 7 if the practitioner wishes to retain registration
2. submit annual documentation as mentioned in Section 5, first paragraph, item 3
3. notify the Brønnøysund Register Centre immediately if the conditions for registration in Section 5, first paragraph, items 1, 2 and 3 are no longer fulfilled or if the practitioner no longer wishes to be registered
4. notify the Brønnøysund Register Centre immediately of any change of employer, cf. Section 5, first paragraph, item 4.

The Ministry of Health may set more specific deadlines for submission of documentation as mentioned in the first paragraph, item 2.

Section 7 *Registration fee and annual fee*

Practitioners shall pay a registration fee when registering for the first time.

After the initial registration, registered practitioners shall pay an annual fee to retain their registration.

The amount of the registration fee and the annual fee as mentioned in the first and second paragraph shall be determined by the Ministry of Health. The annual fee must be paid in full even if the practitioner is only registered for part of the year. The Brønnøysund Register Centre shall collect the registration fee and the annual fee.

The Ministry of Health may set more specific deadlines for payment of the registration fee and the annual fee stipulated in the first and second paragraphs.

Section 8 *Exclusion from the Register*

A practitioner who no longer fulfils the conditions for registration according to Sections 3-7 shall be excluded from the register.

If special grounds exist, the Brønnøysund Register Centre may at the request of the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs decide to exclude a registered practitioner, even if the conditions for registration are fulfilled. Before requesting exclusion, the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs shall have obtained a statement from the registered practitioner. Decisions on exclusion may be appealed to the Ministry of Health. In the event of such an appeal, the provisions in Act of 10 February 1967 relating to procedure in cases concerning public administration shall apply.

A practitioner who has been excluded from the Register pursuant to the first paragraph may be reregistered if the practitioner documents that the conditions for registration have again been fulfilled and pays the registration fee, cf. Section 7, first paragraph.

A practitioner may also be excluded from the Register if his/her employer reports termination of employment and the practitioner does not document within four weeks from the termination of employment that the conditions in Section 5 have again been fulfilled. If documentation that the conditions have again been fulfilled is provided before the deadline, no new registration fee shall be paid. The connection between the previous employer and the registered practitioner shall be deleted.

Section 9 *The content of the Register and disclosure of information in the Register*

The voluntary register of practitioners of alternative treatment shall contain the following information:

1. Name, address and personal identity number or D-number of the registered practitioner, cf. Section 5.
2. Date of initial registration
3. The legal entity through which the registered practitioner practises his/her profession, with its organisation number, name and address, cf. Section 5.
4. The organisation numbers, names and addresses of approved practitioners' organisations which have members registered in the Register of Practitioners, cf. Section 3.
5. The title of the registered practitioner or the form of treatment provided by the registered practitioner, as well as the organisation number, name and address of the approved organisation of which the practitioner is a member, cf. Section 5.

Everyone has the right to acquaint themselves with the registered data listed in the first paragraph, with the exception of personal identity numbers and D-numbers. The Ministry of Health may decide how the information is to be made accessible and decide that a fee may be charged for this service.

Section 10 *Entry into force*

These Regulations shall enter into force on 1 January 2004.