



# BCHA Supervised Clinical Hours Policy Draft

This document is not finalized

## **BCHA Supervised clinical hours definition:**

BCHA requires that applicants to RHT designation have completed a minimum of 500 hours of supervised clinical experience obtained through structured mentorship, supervised clinical training as part of an academic program, or a combination of these experiences. A minimum of 250 supervised hours must be in-person.

\* A clinical hour is an actual hour spent with a client and/or discussing client protocols with a mentor.

\* An in-person hour is when the student(s) and patient are in-person together and the mentor can be either in person or virtual.

## **Clinical Experience**

Clinical experience must encompass more than casual consultations with family and friends.

To qualify, sessions with individual clients must include:

- full health history intake
- differential assessment
- herbal protocols
- a reasonable number of formal follow-up visits.

We expect that RHT applicants have spent most of their 500 clinical hours addressing health issues that require a broad and comprehensive process of differential assessment, herbal protocols, and follow up care.

## **Pathway for 500 supervised clinic hours:**

- Observation
- Direct supervision
- Independent consultation with mentor feedback

## **Observation Clinical Hours**

Supervised clinical experiences, where you are not the primary practitioner.

Examples of observation based supervised clinical experiences include:

- Roundtable discussions of a specific case or herbal protocols with a qualified supervisor.
- Observing another practitioner or a fellow student consulting with a patient within a training clinic with a qualified supervisor on site.



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## Primary Practitioner Clinical Hours

Supervised clinical experiences, where you are the primary practitioner. Should account for a minimum of 250 of your total clinical hours.

\* BCHA requires a minimum of 125 hours of the total 250 in-person hours be primary practitioner clinical hours.

Examples of primary practitioner supervised clinical experiences include:

- Clients you have worked with in a clinical training program or supervised clinical practice.
- Clients you have worked with, and a mentor is observing you, either online or on-site, while you are with the patient.
- Clients you have worked with, and a mentor oversees your treatment plan.

\* Special consideration will be given to those who have been in practice for several years.

\*If you have supervised clinical hours in another discipline, up to 50 hours can be used towards the 500 required hours for RHT

## Grace Period Due to COVID

Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis if all 500 hours were completed virtually due to COVID restrictions.

If you enrolled in your program before the announcement of this policy update, Oct 1, 2023, please send an email to [bcha@bcherbalists.ca](mailto:bcha@bcherbalists.ca) with the following information:

- Name of School
- Date of enrollment
- Expected graduation date
- # of clinical hours currently complete
- Time period current clinical hours completed