



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

MH 78:44/1

MOH-MHC-0016-2026

05 March 2026

See Distribution List

AMENDMENTS TO THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES (EXEMPTION) ORDER 2021 ON THE USE OF THE TERM "TREAT" IN HEALTHCARE ADVERTISING

On 19 February 2026, the Ministry of Health ("MOH") published the Healthcare Services (Exemption) Order 2021 ("Exemption Order") under the Healthcare Services Act 2020 ("HCSA"). The amendments will allow Selected Professionals, comprising registered healthcare professionals and Allied Health Professionals ("AHPs") listed under the First Schedule of the Allied Health Professions Act 2011, to use the term "treat" in healthcare advertising. The full list of Selected Professionals is in **Annex B**.

Use of the Term "Treat" by Selected Professionals

2. The intention of the advertising controls under the HCSA is to protect the public from misleading healthcare advertisements. Hence, s.31A of the HCSA currently prohibits non-HCSA licensees from claiming in healthcare services advertising to "treat" any medical conditions or diseases, to prevent unqualified persons from making treatment claims that could mislead the public and to protect patients from seeking inappropriate care.

3. MOH has received multiple feedback that this has inadvertently impacted healthcare professions, including allied health and traditional Chinese medicine practitioners, who are qualified through their education and training to independently treat and manage symptoms arising from certain medical conditions, in accordance with their established standards of practice.

4. Having considered the feedback and consulted relevant stakeholders, MOH recognises that these professionals are an integral part of our healthcare workforce and provide essential supportive services in our healthcare landscape. In response, MOH has issued an exemption order which allows Selected Professionals including registered healthcare professionals and AHPs listed under the First Schedule of the Allied Health Professions Act 2011 to use the term "treat" in their advertisements.

5. Selected Professionals, in using the term “treat”, will need to ensure that their advertisements comply with the following requirements:
 - (a) be within the professionals' scope of practice;
 - (b) be factually accurate and capable of being substantiated; and
 - (c) not be exaggerated, false, misleading, or deceptive.
6. They must also continue to adhere to the advertising controls and codes of conduct set out in their respective Professional Acts and by their professional boards, councils, or associations.
7. Failure to comply with the requirements or with the advertising controls in the relevant Professional Acts may result in enforcement action by MOH and/or the relevant professional regulatory bodies.
8. Those who have not been exempted will continue to be prohibited from claiming in healthcare services advertising to "treat" any medical conditions or diseases.

Implementation

9. This new amendment takes effect on 20 February 2026 and is appended in **Annex A** for information please.
10. Should you require further enquiries, you may contact MOH at HCSA_Enquiries@moh.gov.sg.

Thank you.

PROFESSOR KENNETH MAK
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Distribution List

To:

Allied Health Professionals

- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Speech Therapists
- Radiation Therapists
- Diagnostic Radiographers
- Audiologists
- Clinical Psychologists
- Dietitians
- Podiatrists
- Prosthetist/Orthotists

Nurses Or Midwives

Pharmacists

Optometrists And Opticians

Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners

Annexes

Annex A	HEALTHCARE SERVICES (EXEMPTION) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2026
Annex B	LIST OF SELECTED PROFESSIONALS

Annex A

HEALTHCARE SERVICES (EXEMPTION)
(AMENDMENT) ORDER 2026



Healthcare Services
(Exemption) (Amendn

Annex B

LIST OF SELECTED PROFESSIONALS

S/N	Professionals
A.	Allied health professionals who are listed under the First Schedule of the Allied Health Professionals Act 2011 (“AHPA”) 1. Occupational Therapists 6. Audiologists 2. Physiotherapists 7. Clinical Psychologists 3. Speech Therapists 8. Dietitians 4. Radiation Therapists 9. Podiatrists 5. Diagnostic Radiographers 10. Prosthetist/Orthotists
B.	Nurses or midwives who are registered, or enrolled nurses who are enrolled, under the Nurses and Midwives Act 1999
C.	Pharmacists who are registered under the Pharmacists Registration Act 2007
D.	Optometrists and opticians who are registered under the Optometrists and Opticians Act 2007
E.	Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners who are registered under the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners Act 2000