

**Alternative System of Medicine**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

S.No.	Question	Answer
1.	What are 'Alternative Systems of Medicine'?	'Alternative Systems of Medicine' comprise a wide and heterogeneous variety of healthcare practices. Some such practices are Electro-homoeopathy ( <i>also called Electropathy</i> ), Magnetotherapy, Reiki, Reflexology, Urine therapy, Acupuncture, Hypnotherapy, Aromatherapy, Colour therapy, Pranvic healing and Gems and Stones therapy.
2.	Are 'Alternative Systems of Medicine' recognized by the Government?	Other than the AYUSH system of medicine, which too is an alternative system, no other alternative systems are recognised by the Government of India, at present. However, Acupuncture and Hypnotherapy are accepted as 'mode of therapy'.
3.	Can Government accord permission for practice / imparting education in alternative systems?	Unless and until any alternative system of medicine is officially recognised, no permission can be granted for practice / imparting education in such a system.
4.	Is there any recognized body in the country to impart education, or to issue licence for practice, in any alternative system of medicine?	The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health Research) has neither set up nor recognized / authorized anybody / entity, in whatsoever name and form, to impart education, or to issue licence for practice, in any alternative system of medicine, which is not recognised by the Government of India.
5.	Has Government taken any step towards recognition of any alternative system of medicine?	Government has set up an Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) to consider proposals that may be received, seeking recognition of new systems of medicine / therapy. This committee is tasked to critically examine any given proposal, which is referred to it, to determine whether or not the system in question is viable enough for safe adoption in the healthcare system. The report of the committee is, thereafter, to be considered in the Government for a decision in the matter. In this connection, two 'notices', dated 28.02.2017 and 01.11.2019, have been uploaded on the website of the Department of Health Research under the icon "Acts & Circulars → Documents → Alternative Systems of Medicine & Therapy" for guidance. Any proposal, seeking recognition for any new / alternative system is required to be framed, and submitted, strictly in accordance with the manner, as advised in the two notices.