## Health Standard No.: 18-1 Issue Date: November 19, 2018

Subject: Homeopathic Remedies, Herbal Products, and Effective Date: Upon release

**Supplemental Products or Treatments****Approved:**/s/Jordan A. Scheff/LT

(Replaces Health Bulletin #98-2)

**Section:** Health Standards

**Introduction**

Homeopathic remedies, vitamins, minerals, herbs, probiotics, or other similar substances, products or treatments are not classified as drugs or medications by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and therefore, are not approved by the FDA as drugs or medications, although these products or treatments may be approved as dietary supplements. These homeopathic remedies, herbal products or other supplemental products or treatments may contain ingredients that may cause physiological or psychological effects or both for an individual. They also may interact with an individual’s other prescribed medications, with foods, or with other prescribed substances which are used by the individual.

1. **Purpose**

The Department of Developmental Services has established the following health standard as a guideline to address the administration of over-the-counter homeopathic remedies, herbal products or other supplemental products or treatments for individuals residing in DDS-funded residences or facilities, or those individuals attending employment supports or day services programs or respite centers.

1. **Applicability**

This health standard applies to all individuals for whom the department bears direct or oversight responsibility for their health and safety. This standard is to be applied to the planning and coordination of care for individuals and provides guidance to direct support staff for individuals receiving residential funding or in residential placements and individuals receiving employment opportunities and day services.

1. **Definitions**

“Individual” means a person who receives funding or services from the Department of Developmental Services.

1. **Implementation**
2. For any use of a homeopathic remedy, an herbal product or other supplemental product or treatment, written, informed consent shall be obtained from the individual or the individual’s legal representative.
3. Written or electronic orders shall be obtained from a Connecticut licensed practitioner (i.e., Physician, Medical Specialist, Naturopathic or Homeopathic Physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse) for any use of a homeopathic remedy, an herbal product or other supplemental product or treatment by an individual.
4. The individual’s primary care provider, if not the licensed prescriber, shall be aware of the use of such homeopathic remedy, herbal product or other supplemental product or treatment by the individual.
5. Any homeopathic remedy, herbal product or other supplemental product or treatment being used by the individual shall be included on the list of medications shared with other healthcare providers and at urgent or emergency medical care facilities and with employment supports or day service providers.
6. Any homeopathic remedy, herbal product or other supplemental product or treatment may only be administered by a licensed nurse or a medication administration certified employee.
7. Any error in the administration of any homeopathic remedy, herbal product or other supplemental product or treatment shall be managed in accordance with the existing DDS process established in 17a-210-1 to 17a-210-10, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies concerning errors in medication administration and prohibited practices.
8. The registered nurse shall provide staff with information regarding the desired effect, potential side effects, and possible interactions with medications or other supplemental preparations from the use of any homeopathic remedy, herbal product or other supplemental product or treatment.
9. Any homeopathic remedy, herbal product or other supplemental product or treatment used for its behavior modifying effects or to enhance behavior modifying medications shall be detailed in documents submitted to the regional Program Review Committee (PRC).
10. Legally available over-the-counter (OTC) Cannabidiol (CBD) oils that contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) are not FDA approved as medications or as dietary supplements. Therefore, due to the known psychoactive effects of THC, OTC products containing THC shall be treated in the same manner as any controlled substance.
11. No homeopathic remedy, herbal product or other supplemental product or treatment that is not legal to purchase or use in the State of Connecticut shall be purchased online or out-of-state for administration to an individual.
12. While many persons attest to the benefits of the use of various homeopathic remedies, herbal products or other supplemental products or treatments, it should be noted that there are very few peer-reviewed scientific studies that support the claims made for the long term benefits of most of these products or treatments. The purchase and use of these products or treatments should never (1) come at the cost of the health or safety of an individual, (2) be used if they interfere with the individual’s use of prescribed drugs or medications, or (3) jeopardize the financial security of the individual.
13. **References**

[Sections 17a-210-1 through 17a-210-10, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies](file:///H%3A%5CWord%5CRegulations%5C17a-210-1%20%28PA-05-150%29%20Med%20Admin%5C17a-210-1%20-15.pdf)

Administration of Medications: Residential Facilities, Respite Centers, Day Programs, Community Training Homes, and Individual and Family Supports

1. **Attachments**

None.