

# HERBAL ALLIANCE

Collaborating to Promote and Support Herbal Medicine and Herbalists

info@herbalalliance.uk • www.herbalalliance.uk



## Herbal Alliance Quality & Sustainability Guidelines

### Sustainability Guidelines

#### What does sustainability mean for Herbalists?

Sustainable Herbal Medicine ensures a viable future for herb growers, suppliers and our profession.

It is the essence of herbal medicine: ensuring successful clinical practice and sustaining health (individual, societal and ecological).

This can be achieved by the use of practitioner-quality herbs that also demonstrably meet recognized environmental, social and economic standards, so as to ensure they are available for the benefit of future generations, as well as promoting fairness and planetary health across everything we do.

The quality of herbal material is its ability to produce the benefits expected of it without any unexpected harms. Therefore practitioner-quality is the therapeutic quality expected by trained herbal practitioners for their clients.

#### Recognised sustainability standards

- Environmental standards  
preserve biological diversity and regenerate ecosystems to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Social standards  
support and enhance cultural diversity
- Economic standards  
support and enhance economic resilience by providing fair wages and good livelihoods for everyone involved.

Demonstrable standards include? E.g. Third-Party Certification, organic, fair trade, fair for life, fair wild, UEFT, Rainforest Alliance, and adherence to Science Based Targets, living wage, anti-slavery.

#### Guidelines

- A. Herbal practitioners purchasing material for supply to and making up medicines for clients under HMR2012 Art 241 should know:
  1. Source country of species
  2. Method of procurement: Cultivated, Wild
  3. Evidence of environmental standards (organic, Fairwild, UEFT)
  4. Evidence of social standards (Fair, anti-slavery)
  5. Evidence of economic standards (Fair, living wage)
  6. Supplier's commitment to Net Zero

#### Quality Guidelines

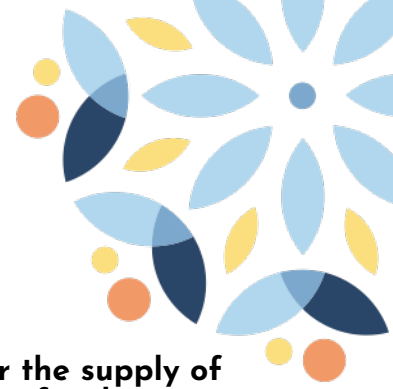
##### What is Quality for Herbalists?

*'The quality of herbal material is its ability to produce the benefits expected of it without any unexpected harms.'*

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**Practitioner-Quality herbs are recommended by The Herbal Alliance for the supply of medicines made up under Human Medicines Regulations 2012 Article 241 for dispensing by a herbalist after a one-to-one consultation:**

**A. Herbal practitioners making up medicines for clients under HMR2012 Art 241 should seek evidence of the following specifications from their suppliers:**

1. Species and plant part (Latin binomial as standard, including other relevant names as appropriate e.g. PinYin).
2. The form of the material - whole, cut, powder, concentration.
3. Packaging. How it should be packed (example?)
4. Quality Assurance regimes under which it has been produced:
  - WHO GACP
  - WHO Good Storage Practice (WHO Technical Report Series, No. 908)
  - And/or
  - BHMA Herbal Practitioner Supplier Scheme
  - HACCP
  - GMP
5. Sustainability and Social Responsibility regime under which it should have been produced
  - Herbal Alliance guidelines (See above)
6. Pharmacopoeial standards outline the minimum standards for therapeutics. The pharmacopoeia standard used should be recorded e.g. EP, BP, PC, API, WHO, BHP, etc. Compliance with pharmacopoeia standards must be determined - (Colour, smell, macroscopic, microscopic, foreign matter, total ash, acid insoluble in HCl, water-soluble extractives as well as identified marker compounds and noted active ingredients.)
7. Any other standard not specified in pharmacopoeia
  - Maximum contaminants (e.g. Aflatoxin, Ochratoxin, PAs, TAs, PAHs)
  - Pesticides
  - Heavy Metals/Toxic Elements
8. Age - specify harvest season, maximum age or best before date.
9. Batch/lot number so that its origin can be traced.

**B. practitioner.**

1. Traceability. Implement a traceability regime:
  - Log receipt in log book by species, lot #, delivery note.
  - Log every movement of the material within and from dispensary.
2. Place in quarantine area under specified storage conditions
3. Check identity by organoleptic methods using pharmacopoeia.
4. Check that COAs supplied comply with specifications
5. Check that COAs supplied comply with specifications given in the order.
6. Release from quarantine into suitable storage area for normal use.

In addition practitioners should inform suppliers if the material is not up to standard, do additional tests as necessary, destroy by fire or composting or return to supplier. They should expect the supplier to follow the American Botanical Council's Botanical Adulterants Prevention Program (BAPP) and apply their standards for destruction of defective materials.

**C. Good pharmacy and dispensing practice.**

10. [Dispensing-process-best-practice-February-2018.pdf](#) .

Or [AHPA Good Compounding and Dispensing Practices](#)

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