



Herbal Practitioner Suppliers Section (HPSS)

*Providing high quality, safe and effective
herbal medicines for medical herbalists*

At the current time, the following organisations are members of the HPSS

[Avicenna Centre for Chinese Medicine](#)

[Balance Healthcare](#)

[Herbal Apothecary](#)

[HerbPrime Co., Ltd](#)

[Integria/MediHerb](#)

[Organic Herb Trading](#)

[Panacea](#)

[Phoenix Medical](#)

About the Herbal Practitioners Suppliers Section (HPSS)

The supply of goods to herbal practitioners is probably the least regulated of all the herbal sectors; even the legal status of the goods being supplied is poorly defined and vulnerable. Since the government has rejected statutory regulation of herbal practitioners, it is important to address potential issues with quality and safety within the herbal practitioner and supplier sector.

There is a need for the whole sector to work together to provide a service that both professionals and the public can trust. The British Herbal Medicine Association (BHMA), with its well-established links to independent academia and health professions remains the best platform from which the herbal practitioner supplier sector can organise, grow and develop.

This led to the BHMA setting up the Herbal Practitioners Suppliers Section (HPSS) to bring together the key UK practitioner herbal suppliers from the Western, Chinese and Ayurvedic herbal medicine traditions for the first time.



About the BHMA Herbmark

Seven suppliers of medicinal herbs to UK practitioners have been awarded the British Herbal Medicine Association's (BHMA) HerbMark®.

Developed by the BHMA under its Herbal Practitioner Suppliers Scheme (HPSS), the quality standard is only awarded to companies that are members of the scheme, following the successful completion of an in-depth audit process to help ensure that herbs administered by UK practitioners (phytotherapists, herbalists and medical herbalists) are manufactured to pharmaceutical standards, ensuring consistently high quality and effectiveness for their patients.

"The objective of the HerbMark® is to provide assurance to herbal practitioners that accredited medicinal herb manufacturers and distributors are working to best practice, providing them with high quality and safe products for use by their patients."

Chris Etheridge, BHMA Chair.



“The HerbMark standard was developed using a combination of 40 years GMP (good manufacturing practice) and Food Safety Standards experience supplemented by site visits to medicinal herb manufacturing companies to gain an understanding of their processes. The result is an easy to follow and useful assessment tool to enable organisations to carry out a gap analysis which will then drive a continuous improvement program establishing best practice. Organisations will be audited against this standard on a regular basis, typically every two years.”

Martin Dooley, BHMA Board Member and Qualified Person (QP)

Key areas of audit include: Quality Management Systems, Personnel, Premises & Equipment, Production, Documentation, Quality, Out-Sourced Activities, Complaints and Recalls, and Self- Inspection.

At present, statutory regulation of herbal medicinal products in the UK is via the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive (THMPD) which allows products to be registered under the Traditional Herbal Registration (THR) scheme. Regulated by the UK government’s Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the THR scheme assures the quality and safety of a limited number of herbs available to the consumers for purchase over- the-counter. Consumers can identify these products by buying herbal medicines that display the THR logo on pack. Until now, practitioner supply of medicinal herbs has been unregulated, an issue that responsible practitioners have raised concern about. The BHMA’s HerbMark is separate to and not an alternative to the MHRA’s THR Scheme.

Since its launch in 2021, seven companies have successfully completed the rigorous audit process and achieved accreditation, these include:

- *Organic Herb Trading
(15 Jan 2021)*
- *Phoenix Medical
(27 Jul 2021)*
- *Herbprime Co., Ltd
(13 Sep 2021)*
- *Panacea Healthcare
(17 Sep 2021)*
- *Balance Healthcare
(17 Sep 2021)*
- *Herbal Apothecary
(12 Oct 2021)*
- *Avicenna Centre for
Chinese Medicine
(13 November 2024)*

Regulated by the BHMA/HPSS, the HerbMark is a voluntary scheme that will increase confidence and provide assurance to both practitioners and consumers that they are receiving high quality, safe products.

“We are delighted to have these seven practitioner supplier companies committed to the HerbMark scheme. We would encourage herbal medicine practitioners to support these companies that have taken significant steps to ensure quality and safety of the herbs they supply,”

Chris Etheridge, BHMA Chair.

For more information about the HerbMark scheme, visit www.bhma.info/hpss or email secretary@bhma.info.



HPPS Member Information

[Avicenna Centre for Chinese Medicine](#)

[Balance Healthcare](#)

[Herbal Apothecary](#)

[HerbPrime Co., Ltd](#)

[Integria/MediHerb](#)

[Organic Herb Trading](#)

[Panacea](#)

[Phoenix Medical](#)

Avicenna Centre for Chinese Medicine and Avicenna Dispensary was founded in 1987 by pioneering Chinese Medicine herbalist Mazin Al-Khafaji.

He studied Acupuncture in the UK from 1979 to 1983, and then embarked on an arduous four-year journey to study Chinese herbal medicine in China.

This meant working at hospitals in Nanjing for the most part of 1983, combined with stays in Taiwan to study the Chinese language until the end of 1984, and then returning to Shanghai on a British Council scholarship to study Chinese Herbal Medicine alongside Chinese students from 1985 to 1987.

He graduated as Doctor of Chinese Medicine from the Shanghai College of TCM and upon his return from China opened the Avicenna Centre for Chinese Medicine and his Skin Clinic in Hove. He immediately started sharing the knowledge he had acquired in China, teaching the original London Course for Chinese Herbal Medicine alongside Michael McIntyre, and has since taught thousands of students worldwide.

This was swiftly followed by the opening of Avicenna Herbal Dispensary, including decoction making facilities and a small cream and ointment production unit to serve his clinical practice with a true “field to patient” service, which is now available to others.

Today Mazin is recognised internationally not only as a trailblazer and leading clinician in the world of Chinese medicine in the West, but as a respected teacher, scholar, herbal expert, and the producer of the award-winning Dermatology-M range of topical products crafted in house at Avicenna, using only our own herbs and high-quality organic ingredients.

Avicenna Dispensary continuously stocks at least 500 single herbs in different preparations, carefully sourced, authenticated and imported by ourselves in close consultation with our longstanding suppliers in China. We have worked in association with Kew Gardens and as consultants with other organisations, and were instrumental in setting the standards and establishing the RCHM Approved Supplier Scheme.

We offer a prescription filling and decoction service that creates ready to drink herbal prescriptions, available to associated practitioners, and produce the topical Dermatology-M range of products that Mazin originally developed for use on his own patients, which now comprises about 60 highly effective products.

Clinic & Dispensary
avicenna.co.uk

Topicals Practitioner Account
practitioner.dermatology-m.co.uk/my-account/

Teaching & Events
mazin-al-khafaji.com



Website Link

balancehealthcare.com

[Balance Healthcare providing
healthcare products to
practitioners](#)

Balance Healthcare is dedicated to the continued emergence of natural healthcare and wellness for everyone. As the premier resource for professional grade products to the integrative healthcare community, Balance Healthcare brings together the best names in natural medicine to deliver a total suite of superior scientifically proven healthcare products.

We are committed to ensuring the superiority and efficacy of all products offered under the Balance Healthcare umbrella.

Balance Healthcare is a trusted name in natural medicine; we pride ourselves on the quality of our products, reliable delivery, exceptional customer service, and our commitment to educate health professionals about innovations in natural medicine and scientific research.

**DEDICATED TO THE CONTINUED EMERGENCE OF NATURAL
HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS**

Originally established in the 1980s, Herbal Apothecary has been providing high quality herbal products to practitioners, the trade, and the public for over 40 years.

Herbal Apothecary produces one of the largest ranges of practitioner herbal products in the UK including Western, Chinese, Ayurvedic herbs. Our product range includes tinctures, fluid extracts, glycerates, capsules, cut herbs, powdered herbs, essential oils, pessaries and more. We're working hard to develop a range of natural health products which meet the needs of a wide range of practitioners.

As well as our range of herbal medicines we also work with practitioners, health shops and other businesses to develop new products for different markets. We also provide contract manufacturing services.

We work hard to ensure our products are of the highest quality. Our business is accredited by the BHMA HerbMark scheme. We operate under ISO9001:2015 and are a certified organic producer. Herbal Apothecary is proud to be a Living Wage Employer and a member of the Good Business Charter.

'Herbal Apothecary' is a brand under the umbrella of Nature's Laboratory Ltd. Our other brands include BeeVital Propolis and Sweet Cecily's Skincare. Through these brands we research and develop natural medicines made from bee products and natural skincare products which are handmade by our team.

Ethos of the Herbal Apothecary

We are driven by our 3 guiding principles of Evidence, Sustainability and Access:

Evidence – we have invested heavily in research, developing our own in-house laboratory and collaborating with leading universities to explore the scientific rationale for herbal medicines.

Sustainability – for us, sustainability goes beyond environmental and economic considerations, our team is working hard to develop sustainable business practices across every aspect of our organisation.

Access – we're committed to ensuring that safe and effective herbal medicine is accessible to all who need it, we support natural health projects in the community and work collaboratively with practitioners to ensure safe and effective natural medicines are widely available.

Website link
herbalapothecaryuk.com



Herbprime

Herbprime was established in 2006 with the goal of supplying practitioners in the UK and Europe the highest-quality herbal medicines and materials possible. We work closely with Sun Ten Pharmaceuticals, providers of herbal medicines to the public healthcare systems of Taiwan and Japan. As such, our herbs go through a rigorous barrage of tests for quality, consistency, adulteration, and heavy metal exposure. This includes adherence to cGMP, PIC/S, ISO 17025 and 9001, TGA (or equivalent), batch certification, traceability and constituent verification through technologies such as High-Performance Liquid Chromatography, mass spectrometry, gas chromatography and DNA analysis, as well as more traditional techniques, like macroscopic and microscopic examination.

Our herbs come directly from the growers, bypassing markets altogether. Developing long-term relationships with farmers not only secures our supply chain but also enables us to have a positive impact on the way the herbs are grown by applying modern research to farming practices and ensuring sustainability. This is another key value of Herbprime, as we strive to be as environmentally-friendly as possible. For years we have been reducing packaging and replacing plastics as well as developing innovative new green technologies.

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We believe that TCM, though derived from ancient wisdom and methods, can be further improved by comprehensive scientific research and innovation, and that this can work hand in hand with giving back to the environment which has gifted us this powerful medicine.

We work hard to give practitioners more tools with which to apply their herbal knowledge. Our online prescription service is used by educational institutions such as the Northern College of Acupuncture and our recently-launched poultice preparation service opens up a new world of external treatment options. Aside from herbs we also offer non-salicylic acid pain relieving massage oils, warming and cooling herbal plasters and teas.

Herbprime

Ancient Medicine. Modern Methods. Green Future.



MediHerb® was co-founded in 1986 by Professor Kerry Bone, a herbal practitioner, scientist and academic. Kerry was inspired to create high quality herbal medicines, which would assist in improving patient outcomes. He sought to preserve tradition, while also utilising the latest in scientific understanding of phytochemistry and extraction techniques.

With his background in chemistry, naturopathy and knowledge gained as a research scientist, Kerry developed the 1:2 Cold Percolation process, ensuring consistent high-quality extracts which retained the full spectrum of phytochemicals from herbal material. This laid the foundations of consistent efficacy in herbal medicine and paved the way for innovative testing methods and quality control.

MediHerb® is proud to be a global leader in quality herbal medicines, with over 30 years of experience in sustainability practices, product development, research and education, and is proud of our thriving world-wide practitioner community.

At MediHerb®, quality means providing the most exceptional natural medicine products and support, to help you achieve effective results with your patients, time after time.

MediHerb®'s range of liquid extracts, tablets, capsules and powders are inspired by core naturopathic principles and the latest evidence-based research.

Website link
mediherb.co.uk



Website link
balancehealthcare.com

Balance Healthcare is the exclusive UK & Eastern Ireland Distributor for MediHerb

For more than 40 years Organic Herb Trading has existed to make high-quality, traceable, sustainably grown/collected herbs accessible to medicinal practitioners. It was the very reason that the company was established and continues to be at the heart of what we do, four decades later.

We grow, source and supply the UK's largest range of high-quality botanicals for a diverse range of customers – in the herbal tea, food, skincare, and medicinal markets. Our customers, based in the UK and worldwide range from individual herbal practitioners to the most respected global organic brands including Neal's Yard Remedies, Riverford Organic and Yeo Valley. All our products are certified organic either by OF&G, Soil Association or the Irish Organic Association, and the vast majority are BRCGS approved at Grade AA.

As herbalists are holistic practitioners, prescribing herbs for medicinal use, we understand the importance of providing them with botanicals of the highest quality. For us, product quality extends to how the herbs are grown, working with farmers and collectors who avoid harmful pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and synthetic fertilisers, that is why we are so committed to organic principles and the certification that provides that important assurance. Organic Herb Trading was the first business in the world to be awarded the BHMA's HerbMark®.

Website link

[organicherbtrading.com](http://www.organicherbtrading.com)

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Facebook

[@OrganicHerbTrading](https://www.facebook.com/OrganicHerbTrading)

Instagram

[@OrganicHerbTrading](https://www.instagram.com/OrganicHerbTrading)

LinkedIn

[Organic Herb Trading](https://www.linkedin.com/company/OrganicHerbTrading)

It is timely that in 2022, the year of our 40th anniversary, we relaunched a range of medicinal tinctures, made on our farm in Somerset. The foundation of product quality is always the starting raw material. Our tincture range is derived from both fresh and dry herbs, with our fresh herb tinctures made from organic botanicals, grown on our farm in Somerset. These are harvested by hand at their peak and transferred to manufacturing soon after, to ensure the highest quality products possible.

Our dried herbs are sourced from an established network of trusted suppliers from more than 60 countries, many of whom we have worked with closely for decades. All our suppliers are certified organic and many are also FLO Fairtrade, Fair For Life or FairWild.

The method of extraction and ratios of herb to ethanol have been carefully researched in order to create an optimum end product. Depending on the herb, we use maceration, infusion, or decoction techniques. These techniques, combined with the specific alcohol concentration, enable us to extract the desired plant constituents from that botanical ingredient. The resultant batches of tincture are organoleptically analysed in-house and at our trusted third-party laboratory, before being bottled and labelled.

Our tinctures are available in 500 ml or 1 l glass bottles, or in plastic jerricans for bulk quantities. We have carefully assessed our packaging materials to avoid unnecessary waste, breakage and to ensure optimum product quality.



PANACEA

Website link

panaceahealthonline.com

Setting the new standard for professional herbal products.

Panacea Health Limited offers a truly comprehensive range of products that the modern practitioner requires to run a high quality, client focused and profitable business.

Quality – We have sourced our products from some of the most renowned growers and suppliers in the industry. Our in-house experts ensure that our tinctures & extracts range conforms to our exacting standards.

Price – We have worked extremely hard to combine excellent quality with extremely good value for money and we believe our tenacity has paid off in that we are confident our product range retains its first-class quality, whilst being competitively priced.

Service – We still pride ourselves on delivering a truly exceptional customer experience with our distribution facility ensuring next day delivery for the majority of orders. Our goal is to provide an excellent service combined with the very best yet competitively priced products. Providing total peace of mind.

Working towards combining excellent quality with great value for money and pride ourselves on always delivering a truly exceptional customer experience.

Phoenix Medical is a UK-based company dedicated to providing high-quality herbs to manufacturers and practitioners across the UK and Europe. The company is committed to offering authenticated herbal products by using the 'DaoDi' concept to grow its herbs in the right place and harvest them at the right time, ensuring that they come from authentic places of origin according to the classical text 'Shen Nong Gen Cao Jing' (the Divine Farmer's Materia Medica). The company's herbs are 100% traceable to the original source, thanks to its field-to-patient supply chain.

Phoenix Medical has built a reputation for being a reliable and trustworthy supplier of herbal products to many practitioners and factors in the UK and the rest of Europe. The company has maintained this reputation by nurturing existing partnerships across all levels of the supply chain, from farmland to a clinic, and by meeting all the relevant regulatory requirements and maintaining compliance with approved supplier schemes through the British Herbal Medicine Association (BHMA) and other professional bodies. Phoenix Medical has also obtained ISO 9001 certification and ISO 140001 certification, representing steps forward in terms of the company's management processes and environmental responsibility.

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The company's commitment to innovation, production, and promotion is evident in the launch of its DaoDi culinary herb range, which introduces a fresh dimension to the kitchens of many households and herbalists. Additionally, the company's upgraded mushroom range products have been well-received on top of its popular organic mushroom line. All the company's herbal products have eco-friendly packaging, a source of great pride. The company will continue to use sustainable resources, push to minimise waste and increase efficiency wherever possible.

Phoenix Medical has been supporting professional organisations and practitioners in achieving their charitable aims since its establishment. The company has supported organisations such as Animal Asia, ICENI Ipswich, World Medicine, Acupuncture Without Borders, and Ukrainian Acupuncture Support, amongst others. Phoenix Medical has also continued supporting students at various teaching institutes crucial to the furtherance of Chinese medicine knowledge.

In conclusion, Phoenix Medical is a reliable and trustworthy supplier of herbal products that support professionals in delivering effective treatment. The company's commitment to quality, innovation, production, and promotion, along with its charitable endeavours and sharing of knowledge, demonstrates its dedication to being a responsible and trusted supplier of herbal products. Its established relationships within the industry will serve as the foundation for its future growth.