

National Qigong Association Legislation Position

The National Qigong Association (NQA) recognizes that Clinical/Medical Qigong is considered Complementary Integrative Medicine by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)¹ and is recognized by the National Center for Education Statistics (NECS) as “Energy and Biologically Based Therapies” (CIP code 51.3799²).

The NQA chooses to use the term Clinical Qigong rather than Medical Qigong. Nevertheless, because other institutions and/or practitioners still use the term Medical Qigong, we’ve included it in our position paper.

The NQA will NOT support any legislation that includes the practice of Personal Qigong, Martial Qigong and Religious Qigong. It is our position that these Qigong divisions fall under the category of individual rights.

In states that have current laws protecting Qigong, we will defer to these laws rather than rewrite new legislation. The NQA supports Health Freedom Act or Safe Harbor Act legislation for Clinical/Medical Qigong.

In the event licensing of Clinical/Medical Qigong can’t be avoided, these are the minimum requirements licensing bills should meet in order to receive NQA support:

1. Any licensing attempts involving Clinical/Medical Qigong, should represent our profession in an equitable manner by requiring licensing boards to consist of members of our profession.
2. That Clinical/Medical Qigong is not massage or bodywork and as such, should never be a subset of those or other like professions. Massage and bodywork licensing boards representing western trained therapists should not govern Clinical /Medical Qigong.
3. Any inclusion of Clinical/Medical Qigong in legislation that may encompass other Asian Health practices, should include a description of each profession, required minimum training hours and issue separate licenses for each type of profession such as, Clinical/Medical Qigong Therapist (CQT) license, Asian Bodywork Therapist (ABT) license etc.
4. That a Clinical/Medical Qigong practitioner’s scope of practice should include but is not limited to, evaluation and treatment of the body, mind, emotions and spirit based upon Chinese medical principles and skills derived through self-cultivation, Qi transmission through non-touch and light touch methods and prescription of Qigong exercises and meditations. Cupping, tuning forks, gua sha, moxibustion and external application of medicinal plants, eastern lifestyle suggestions and other techniques, practices and adjunct therapies may be used by properly trained practitioners³
5. We believe that the testing and certification of practitioners and instructors by private organizations such as the NQA provides the highest degree of quality assurance to the public.

¹ <https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/complementary-alternative-or-integrative-health-whats-in-a-name#hed2>

² <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/searchresults.aspx?y=56&aw=Qi,gong>

³ Clinical Qigong Therapist definition as noted in Illinois Bill SB1930, introduced 26 Feb 2021.