



CLIENT/PATIENT ENCOUNTER GUIDELINES

Definition of Client/Patient Encounter (PE): A client/patient encounter is defined as a combination of the following: *(A patient encounter refers to **each** encounter: initial or follow up. Schools are encouraged to provide the opportunity for long-term follow up by which students can experience outcomes.)*

- a) Experience history and/or outcomes of clients/patients in order to acquire significant clinical knowledge and experience. This experience can be gained in a variety of ways, including observation, internship, externship, small group work, or apprenticeship (working under and alongside the practitioner in a graduated responsibility model).
- b) Carry out procedures such as history taking; prakṛti and vikṛti assessment; pulse, tongue and nail diagnosis; as well as other appropriate methods in order to gain assessment fluency. This cannot be accomplished by passive observation but can be attained in a variety of settings including intern, small group work or apprenticeship (working under and alongside the practitioner in a graduated responsibility model).
- c) Carry out clinical application of Ayurveda as per category designation. *Refer to the *Scope of Practice for the Ayurvedic Profession, Ayurvedic Health Counselor: Educational Outline for Competency, Ayurvedic Practitioner: Educational Outline for Competency* and *Ayurvedic Doctor: Educational Outline for Competency* documents for specific details.

Three Settings for Client/Patient Encounters

1. Observation: Witness preceptor working with a client/patient with limited student involvement
2. Student/client encounter with direct supervision of preceptor. This includes working one-on-one or in small groups of two or three.
3. Student/client one-on-one, in a more intimate setting with student doing complete intake, recommendations and follow-up; to be supervised directly or via externship. All but 5 initial encounters should be in-person. It is acceptable for follow up encounters to be through a HIPAA compliant medium such as VSee (www.vsee.com)

Client/Patient Encounter Requirements by Category:

<i>Ayurvedic Health Counselor</i>	Requires a minimum of 50 client/patient encounters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 25 client/patient encounters must be conducted in the setting of "One-on-One"
<i>Ayurvedic Practitioner</i>	Requires a minimum of 150 client/patient encounters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A maximum of 50 client/patient encounters conducted at the AHC level of training may be added toward the 150 client/patient encounter requirement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 50 client/patient encounters must be conducted in the setting of "One-on-One"* above and beyond the 25 one-on-one of the AHC requirements (total is 75 one-on-one for the AP)
<i>Ayurvedic Doctor</i>	<p>Requires a minimum of 150 client/patient encounters beyond the AP level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 125 client/patient encounters must be conducted in the setting of "One-on-One"*, reviewed by senior faculty and/or senior Doctor of Ayurveda.

*One-on-one” may include groups of two or three students, all of whom are fully engaged in all aspects of diagnosis and chikitsa, as long as each student provides a chikitsa plan reviewed by faculty. Only the “primary” students plan will be offered directly to the client.

Definition of Supervised/Supervision: Each and every client/patient encounter a student has is supervised by one or more of the methods outlined below. Schools offer a variety of valid methods of supervision, including but not limited to:

- a) Preceptor physically present
- b) Preceptor physically absent and checks student work afterward
- c) Preceptor present by live internet feed via a HIPAA-compliant telemedicine platform, e.g. VSee (www.vsee.com)
- d) Use of local mentors affiliated with the program that meet NAMA’s accreditation standard on faculty qualifications. (See accreditation standards document (link here)) (*document to be created)

Professional Level	Client/Patient Encounters Required
Ayurvedic Health Counselor	50
Ayurvedic Practitioner	150
Ayurvedic Doctor	300

Recording Client/Patient Encounters: For schools with onsite clinics, students can fill out a form or worksheet that is signed by the clinic for verification. For schools where the students are being mentored from a distance, an online recording system could be used. Some schools may choose to retain the client/patient encounter forms, while others might record the patient encounters on spreadsheets and return them to the students for their portfolio.

When the student applies for NAMA professional membership, the school informs NAMA that they have completed the required client/patient encounters, just as the school informs NAMA that they have completed the other educational requirements.