

Health Canada is committed to protecting the health and safety of Canadians. Clear and legible labelling is a key component in communicating important information about the safe and proper use of health products, including Natural Health Products (NHPs). Natural health products include homeopathic products.

Following extensive consultations, Health Canada has designed a proposal that improves the labelling of NHPs so that they are clearer and more legible. This will allow consumers to make an informed choice in their purchasing decisions and safe use, while minimizing the burden to industry.

We understand that consumers and patient groups have expressed some confusion when trying to distinguish homeopathic products from non-prescription drugs. To respond to this, Health Canada is proposing to:

- Require homeopathic products that make claims that are not supported by modern science to provide this information in a statement on the front of the package. Health Canada currently requires such a disclaimer for homeopathic cough, cold and flu products for children 12 and under, and this change will expand the statement to other homeopathic products;
- Implement risk-based evidence standards for homeopathic products so that all serious health claims need to be supported by scientific evidence and not traditional homeopathic references; and
- Provide more information on the Health Canada web page on homeopathic products and require a simplified (vanity) URL to accompany the front-of-pack disclaimer to make it easier for consumers to find information.

These measures would allow consumers to easily identify homeopathic products through improved labelling and increase transparency on the evidence requirements for their authorization so that Canadians can make informed choices.

The current proposal builds on labelling best practices used for other products in Canada, such as non-prescription drugs and food, as well as in the United States (US) for food, non-prescription drugs and dietary supplements, by requiring standardization, requirements for clarity and legibility, improved legibility, clearer allergen labelling and modern contact information to support faster adverse reaction reporting.

The proposed amendments would also enhance Health Canada's regulatory alignment for health products making claims with the U.S., the European Union, and Australia. In these jurisdictions, standardization of important product information is already required.

Health Canada has been extensively consulting on the broader proposal since 2016. Most recently, to build on this consultation, Health Canada conducted a public consultation on a regulatory proposal to improve the labelling of natural health products, including the use of a statement on the front of the package on most, if not all, homeopathic products. The consultation ran for 90 days and ended on September 24, 2021. Health Canada is presently

assessing all comments that were received to inform the path forward.