

ASSESSING THE NEED FOR AN INTEGRATED AND PORTABLE TCM
CLINICAL MANUAL AND ITS REQUIRED CONTENTS

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ABSTRACT

Problem. Practitioners and students of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in integrated clinical settings are routinely called upon to quickly and accurately diagnose conditions and formulate treatment plans. Doing so necessitates drawing on a vast store of knowledge related to both TCM and western medicine. Because they do not have access to a portable reference manual, these practitioners and students, unlike their counterparts in western medicine, must rely on memory or take valuable time to consult a variety of sources. The former heightens the risk of error. The latter is time-consuming and inefficient.

Methods. This study included an analysis of the current literature available to TCM practitioners, as compared to the literature presented to western practitioners. A survey designed to gauge the relevance of a variety of topics in integrated medicine assessed the need for having such information readily accessible in clinical settings, specifically in the form of a pocket-sized manual.

Findings. The topics rated most relevant and of greatest concern to study participants included herb/drug interactions, nutrition for diseases, physical examination charts, and TCM treatments for allopathic diseases.

Keywords. Acupuncture manual, TCM manual, integrated medicine, clinical manual.