

The **second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine**, held in New Delhi, India, on 17–19 December 2025, has the theme of “Restoring balance: The science and practice of health and well-being”. The Summit aligns with the [Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034](#), which recognizes Traditional Medicine as a living science that contributes to universal health coverage, health equity and sustainability. The Summit serves as a global platform to accelerate implementation of the new strategy, foster partnerships, and translate pledges and commitments into concrete action.



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### Parallel session 3.B

## Quality, efficiency and patient safety

Plenary 3 and associated parallel sessions will address the evidence-based integration of Traditional Medicine into health systems through the vision of the Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034. Sessions will examine how alignment with global frameworks, patient safety and informed health choices, regulatory coherence and workforce capacity can promote balance across individuals, society and the planet.

This parallel session aims to advance the agenda of quality and patient safety in Traditional Medicine as a foundation for its safe and effective integration into health systems. Building on WHO’s work on quality and patient safety, the discussion will highlight countries’ experiences regarding the role of education and training in strengthening practitioner competence and ethical standards; mechanisms for enhancing patient safety; and systems for accrediting Traditional Medicine health facilities. Through the exchange of international experiences, the session will identify pathways for integrating Traditional Medicine in ways that are effective, people-centred, safe and aligned with universal health coverage goals.

### Rationale

Achieving balance in the integration of Traditional Medicine depends on embedding quality and patient safety as continuous, system-wide commitments rather than one-time interventions. The Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025–2034 places quality at the heart of integrating Traditional Medicine into health systems (1). Quality, as defined in the *WHO Quality Toolkit*, encompasses care that is effective, safe, people-centred, timely, equitable, integrated and efficient (2). Ensuring practitioner competence, fostering open reporting of adverse events, and developing robust accreditation systems are essential components of patient safety. Evidence from global quality networks demonstrates that resilient and learning-oriented systems sustain high-quality care during both stability and crisis, supported by strong governance, data and feedback mechanisms (3–6). This session will explore how education, patient safety and facility accreditation can work together to institutionalize trust, promote informed choice, and advance integration of Traditional Medicine within health systems aligned with universal health coverage.

### Objectives

- **WHO perspective on quality:** Reflect on *WHO Quality Toolkit* and identify pathways for improving quality of Traditional Medicine health services.
- **Education:** Explore approaches for strengthening Traditional Medicine education and training that promote evidence-based practice and uphold ethical standards.
- **Patient safety:** Examine strategies that improve health care delivery and reduce the risk of preventable harm.
- **Accreditation of health facilities:** Learn from experiences in accreditation and quality assurance of Traditional Medicine facilities that ensure safe, effective and accountable care.

## Guiding questions

1. **Quality as a core health system function:** How can countries ensure that quality in Traditional Medicine is positioned as a core health system function, aligned with universal health coverage goals? What strategies are needed to advance efficiency to achieve the optimal use of resources to deliver safe and timely care?
2. **Education:** What innovations in education and training are needed to equip Traditional Medicine practitioners with evidence-based skills and ethical standards, and the ability to work alongside caregivers and communities? How can interprofessional education foster collaboration between Traditional Medicine and biomedical practitioners to improve patient outcomes?
3. **Patient safety:** What mechanisms are most effective in reducing preventable harms?
4. **Accreditation of health facilities:** How can accreditation and quality assurance systems ensure accountability and consistency in Traditional Medicine facilities?
5. **Social determinants:** What strategies are also needed to engage families, caregivers and communities to address the social determinants of health and improve the quality and resilience of Traditional Medicine service delivery for public health?
6. **Informed choices:** How can we create informed health choice frameworks that empower patients, involve caregivers and centre their needs within people-centred integrative health services?

## Session format

The proposed session format begins with a welcome and framing from the moderator, which will be followed by a series of keynote presentations, including WHO's perspective on quality and pathways for strengthening the quality of Traditional Medicine health services, as well as an exploration of approaches to enhance Traditional Medicine education and training that promote evidence-based, ethically grounded practice. Other presentations will focus on patient safety and strategies to reduce preventable harm, as well as insights on accreditation and quality assurance of Traditional Medicine facilities to ensure safe, effective and accountable care. After each presentation, the speaker will remain on stage, gradually forming a full panel. During the panel discussion, the moderator will facilitate cross-speaker commentary and introduce questions on how data generated through accreditation, patient safety systems and quality monitoring can feed into global tools (such as ICD-11 data and governance dashboards), thereby strengthening links to the Summit's broader progress and accountability agenda. The moderator will then open the floor to the in-person and online audience for questions. Panellists will conclude the session by proposing one or two actionable commitments to strengthen quality and patient safety in Traditional Medicine, emphasizing education and training, practitioner competence, and accreditation systems that support safe, effective and people-centred integration into national health systems.

## References

1. Global traditional medicine strategy 2025–2034. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2025 (Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA) toolkit for universal health coverage).
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3. Maliqi B, Hinton R, Chowdury M, Roder-DeWan S, Eluwa A, Kassa M. Prepared health systems provide quality care at all times. *BMJ*. 2023;e072698. doi:10.1136/bmj-2022-072698.
4. Lattof SR, Maliqi B, Livesley N, Yaqub N, Naimy Z, Muzigaba M et al. National learning systems to sustain and scale up delivery of quality healthcare: a conceptual framework. *BMJ Glob Health*. 2022;7:e008664. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2022-008664.
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6. Quality health services: A planning guide, 1st edition. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020.