

*Dear patient,*

*Did your doctor recommend one or more complementary medicine therapies in addition to your cancer treatment? Are you unsure what to look out for when selecting providers of these therapies?*

*The following criteria should help you to make a decision about suitable and reputable providers of complementary medicine therapies. However, the fulfilment of the criteria cannot guarantee the reputability of the provider or the safety and effectiveness of the complementary medicine therapies and does not correspond to a certificate. Your own impression should supplement your decision basis.*

**Reputable providers of complementary medicine can be identified on the basis of the 8 criteria described**

The provider should:

1. ask for your diagnosis and previous as well as ongoing treatments.
2. be prepared to talk to you about possible interactions between complementary medicine therapies and your cancer treatment.
3. explain to you why this complementary medicine therapy in particular is recommended for you.
4. present to you the possibilities and limitations of this complementary medicine therapy in a realistic and understandable way, be prepared to present previous experiences with this therapy and to communicate reliable data.
5. discuss with you the goals, contents, duration and costs of the planned therapy and changes in the course as well as ways of possible reimbursement.
6. give you a reasonable period to consider and allow you to freely choose or reject the suggested therapy.
7. respect your decision for or against the complementary medicine therapy.
8. provide you with a comprehensible invoice for the treatment.

***There are other important aspects, but they are more difficult to verify. If you would like to know this about the provider, you should ask for:***

- *A specialist training (or special study curriculum) with a regulated length that has been completed and that only therapies that have been learned and are currently mastered are used*
- *Regular further and advanced training courses attended*
- *At least 2 years of experience in the treatment of cancer patients*

