

Stay on nod for homoeopaths to practise allopathy

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Mumbai:In a setback to the state government, the Bombay high court on Thursday stayed its notification permitting homoeopathic doctors having a degree of LCEH (licentiate of the court of examiners in homoeopathy) to practise allopathy.

A bench of Justice Shantanu Kemkar and Justice Rajesh Ketkar passed the interim order on a petition by Indian Medical Association against the Sept 27 notification allowing homoeopaths with an LCEH degree to register as allopaths with the Maharashtra Medical Council.

Senior advocate S U Kamdar, representing the IMA, argued that the notification was bad in law. He said the LCEH course is not recognised by the Medical Council of India. An advocate for the LCEH Doctors' Association said even if the notification is stayed, LCEH doctors will practise allopathy at their own risk.

The judges then asked: "What about the risk to the patients?" They stayed the notification and posted the hearing after four weeks.

LCEH was recognised by Central Council of Homoeopathy in 1951 and abolished by it in 1982. The LCEH Association said homoeopaths do an integrated course with general medicine as a subject and may practise allopathy.