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Kate Chatfield

# Traditional and Complementary Medicines: Are they Ethical for Humans, Animals and the Environment?

Reihe: SpringerBriefs in Philosophy

- Provides a systematic analysis of the ethical implications of traditional and complementary medicine (T&CM)
- Analyzes the impact on animals and the environment, not just humans
- Focuses on pragmatic solutions

This book provides a systematic analysis of the ethical implications of traditional and complementary medicine (T&CM), focusing on pragmatic solutions. The author uses a bioethical methodology called the "Ethical Matrix," to consider the impact of T&CM use for animals and the environment as well as for humans. A systematic search of the literature reveals that most published ethical concerns are related to the safety of T&CM use for humans. However, application of the Ethical Matrix demonstrates that the ethical implications for T&CM use are much broader. In this book, the author analyses the most serious implications, including adverse events related to homeopathy, the use of animals in T&CM products, and the impact of herbal medicine on the environment. Comparisons with the ethical implications of conventional biomedicine help readers to contextualise debate, and highlight aspects that may be unique to T&CM. Globally, many high-level health policy makers promote T&CM as an accessible and affordable healthcare option. However, their use is considered by some to be a waste of resources, unscientific, and unethical.

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