

SP 7.0 Acupuncture/Needling

Effective March 1, 2007
Amended January 1, 2009
Amended July 1, 2010

Purpose and Objective

The Alberta College and Association of Chiropractors accepts the practice of needle acupuncture as part of the scope of practice of chiropractic.

Legislative Context

Section 7.1 of the *Government Organization Act*

2(1) *The following, carried out in relation to or as part of providing a health service, are restricted activities:*

- (a) *to cut a body tissue, to administer anything by an invasive procedure on body tissue or to perform surgical or other invasive procedures on body tissue*
 - (i) *below the dermis or the mucous membrane or in or below the surface of the cornea;*

Section 14(1) – Advanced Authorized Activities (*Chiropractic Regulation*)

14(1) *A regulated member*

- (a) *who has successfully completed an education program in needle acupuncture approved by the Council,*
 - (b) *who meets the additional requirements for continuing competence related to acupuncture set by the Council, and*
 - (c) *who has received notification from the Registrar that the authorization is indicated on the appropriate register*
- may, in the practice of chiropractic and in accordance with the Standards of Practice, perform the restricted activity of cutting a body tissue or performing other invasive procedures on body tissue below the dermis or mucous membrane for the purpose of needle acupuncture.*

Definition(s)

Members will be allowed to practice needle acupuncture as part of their therapeutic care delivery, subject to satisfying the following requirements:

1. acupuncture/needling is an adjunctive therapy to be used in conjunction with the adjustment or manipulation of the spinal column and other articulations of the body;
2. certification of the member in the area of needle acupuncture, by the demonstration of training, to the satisfaction of the Registrar;
3. provision of evidence to the ACAC of professional liability insurance to cover the needle acupuncture treatments;
4. acupuncture is an adjunctive therapy, complementary to the chiropractic adjustment, and therefore members must not list it as a specialty on their letterhead or business cards unless it becomes a fellowship recognized by the Canadian Federation of Chiropractic Regulatory and Education Accreditation Boards (CFCREAB);
5. chiropractic is to be presented to the public in accordance with the consistency of message supported by the ACAC; that being acupuncture being presented as complementary to chiropractic care, but not all or part of chiropractic care; and



6. the chiropractor utilizing acupuncture in the course of chiropractic practice will observe the principles and health care industry standards for aseptic technique, and will observe the Alberta Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Standards. (<http://www.health.alberta.ca/newsroom/pub-infection-prevention.html>)
7. any acupuncture device associated with the puncture of the dermis or mucosa, and any device that comes into contact with the patient at any puncture site, is defined as a single-use medical device, and shall not be reused on any client unless reprocessed by a third party re-processor in a manner that ensures that the device is safe and will function as intended by the manufacturer.
8. despite any authorization to perform a restricted activity, regulated members must always restrict themselves in performing a restricted activity to the activity that the member is competent to perform and that is appropriate to the member's area of practice and the procedure being performed.

Educational Programs

Educational programs will be reviewed to ensure that programs are consistent with requirements and may be added to the list of approved education as the ACAC becomes aware of such programs. The Registrar will review programs related to qualifications for acupuncture that are brought to the attention of the ACAC. Upon confirmation that the criteria listed below have been satisfied, programs will be added to the list of approved acupuncture programs.

The Alberta College and Association of Chiropractors, for the purpose of authorizing individuals to perform the advanced restricted activity in accordance with section 14(1) & (2) of the Chiropractic Regulation, will approve educational programs in acupuncture that meet the following criteria:

- qualification training will include a combined (clinical and academic) minimum of 200 hours of formal training and the completion of an official competency examination. The course should include the following components:
 1. Introduction to Traditional Chinese Acupuncture
 2. Acupuncture points
 3. Applications of acupuncture in modern Western medicine
 4. Guidelines on safety in acupuncture
 5. Treatment techniques

Currently approved programs:

- Acupuncture programs provided at CCE accredited chiropractic educational institutions (that meet the above criteria)
- Acupuncture Foundation of Canada Institute (AFCI)
- McMaster Contemporary Medical Acupuncture Program
- Certificate Program in Medical Acupuncture University of Alberta
- Clinical Acupuncture CMCC
- McMaster Medical Acupuncture Program (Traditional Chinese Medicine)

Students of Educational Programs

A general member who is enrolled in a program of acupuncture studies approved by the Council is permitted to perform the restricted activity of needle acupuncture with the consent of and under the supervision of a general member who is authorized to perform acupuncture.



Continuing Education

Members shall be current with their knowledge and skills level to enable safe and effective treatment for the patient.

Enforceability

Any member identified to the Complaints Director as non-compliant in the Standard of Practice related to acupuncture/needling is subject to the investigations and complaints process under Part 4 of the *Health Professions Act*. Identification of non-compliance may occur as a result of the practice Visit process, patient complaint or any other means by which this information may be brought to the attention of the Complaints Director.

