



MINNESOTA BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

University Park Plaza • 2829 University Avenue SE Suite 500 • Minneapolis, MN 55414-3246

Telephone (612) 617-2130 • Fax (612) 617-2166 • www.bmp.state.mn.us

MN Relay Service for Hearing Impaired (800) 627-3529

ACUPUNCTURIST FACT SHEET

History

The Minnesota Legislature enacted a law in 1995 establishing a licensure system for acupuncturists. The Board of Medical Practice enforces the requirements of the acupuncturist licensure system and provides information to consumers and other interested persons.

Acupuncture Advisory Council

The Acupuncture Advisory Council was appointed by the Board of Medical Practice to advise the Board on issues regarding acupuncturist licensure standards, enforcement of the practice act, and complaint review. The Council is composed of seven members: four acupuncturist practitioners, one physician who also practices acupuncture, one chiropractor who is certified by the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), and one public member who has received acupuncture treatment as a primary therapy from a NCCAOM certified acupuncturist.

Licensure Required

It is unlawful for any person to engage in the practice of acupuncture without a valid license after June 30, 1997. Each licensed acupuncture practitioner shall conspicuously display the license in the place of practice. A person licensed under the Acupuncture Practice Act shall use the title of licensed acupuncturist or L.Ac. All unlicensed persons are prohibited from using the words or letters licensed acupuncturist, Minnesota licensed acupuncturists or any other words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is an acupuncturist without a license issued under the Acupuncture Practice Act. Unlicensed persons holding themselves out as an acupuncturist are guilty of a misdemeanor. A student attending an acupuncture training program must be identified as a student acupuncturist.

Exemptions

The following persons are exempt from the acupuncture license requirement:

- Physicians licensed in Minnesota
- Osteopaths licensed in Minnesota
- Chiropractors licensed in Minnesota
- Persons studying in an acupuncture advisory council approved program providing their acupuncture practice is supervised by a licensed acupuncturist
- A visiting acupuncturist practicing and teaching acupuncture within an instructional setting registered with the Minnesota higher education coordinating board. This person may practice without a license for up to one year, with two one-year extensions permitted.
- A visiting acupuncturists whose sole purpose for visiting state if to provide a tutorial or workshop for 30 days or less per calendar year.

Licensure Requirements

- **General Licensure.** To establish eligibility for licensure, an applicant must be currently NCCAOM certified.
- **Licensure by Reciprocity.** Applicant must have current and unrestricted license or certificate from another jurisdiction with requirements which meet or exceed Minnesota licensure requirements.

Scope of Practice

The scope of practice of acupuncturists includes, but is not limited to: 1) using Oriental medical theory to assess and diagnose a patient and 2) using Oriental medical theory to develop a plan to treat a patient. The acupuncturists must refer patients with a potentially serious disorder to other health care practitioners. The acupuncturists shall request a consultation or written diagnosis from a licensed physician for patients with potentially serious disorders.

Practice Standards

Prior to treatment of a patient, an acupuncture practitioner shall ask whether the patient has been examined by a health care professional

Continuing Education

Licensees issued an acupuncture license under the general requirements must provide documentation of current NCCAOM certification. Licensees issued an acupuncture license by reciprocity or by equivalency during transitional period must meet the same NCCAOM professional development activity requirements as those licensed under the general requirements.

Renewal Cycle

Licensure must be renewed annually on or before June 30 of each year. Renewal notices are sent approximately 45 days prior to expiration. It is the acupuncturist's responsibility to keep the Board advised of their current address. The Board is obligated to mail the renewal application to the address on file. Failure to receive the renewal documents does not relieve acupuncturists of their renewal obligation.

Inactive Licensure Status

A license may be placed in formal inactive status upon application to the Board and payment of \$50 fee and may be reactivated by licensee upon application to the Board.

The Board will cancel a license for nonrenewal if the license has not been renewed within two annual renewal cycles. Acupuncturists wishing to practice in Minnesota again once a license has been canceled for nonrenewal must obtain a new license by reapplying and fulfilling all requirements in existence at time of reapplication.

If any part of this Fact Sheet conflicts with the Minnesota rules or laws, the rules or laws take precedence. It is your responsibility to understand and comply with the regulations. Please call the Board offices if you have any questions.