



## **Acupuncture Standard of Practice of the New Brunswick Chiropractors' Association**

### **History**

Approved by the Board: August, 2008  
Effective: September 1, 2008

### **Purpose and Objective**

1. To provide the chiropractors of NBCA with a Standard of Practice related to practicing acupuncture as an adjunctive therapy within the scope of chiropractic treatment/care in New Brunswick.
2. To allow for the provision of information that will assist members of the public in their selection of available chiropractic treatment/care.
3. To assist chiropractors who intend to provide acupuncture services as an adjunctive therapy to their patients.
4. To remind chiropractors of their duties, obligations and scope of practice when providing acupuncture services as an adjunctive therapy to their patients.

### **Definitions and Context within This Standard of Practice**

The New Brunswick Chiropractors' Association (NBCA) supports the utilization of Acupuncture as an adjunctive therapy within the scope of chiropractic treatment/care offered by New Brunswick Chiropractors, exclusively within their professional scope of practice and within their level of training.

Within its regulatory function, the NBCA concerns itself with public safety of all procedures occurring within the confines of any chiropractic office in the Province. The following are the recommendations of NBCA Standard of Practice regarding criteria for chiropractors to utilize acupuncture within their scope of practice.

A chiropractor will only be entitled to perform acupuncture within their office subject to the following conditions:

1. The practitioner must provide evidence that their acupuncture training has been received through: an accredited program such as those taught in the core curriculum, post-graduate curriculum, or continuing education division of one or more colleges accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education (C.C.E.); accredited institutions, through the Acupuncture Foundation of Canada Institute; or other programs approved by the NBCA.
2. A minimum of one hundred and twenty (120) hours of training, specific to acupuncture, is currently required for an accredited program to be considered. This required minimum will be two hundred (200) hours as per World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines in five years from the date of enactment of this Standard of Practice. The practitioner must provide evidence that they have passed all the necessary examinations and are certified to perform acupuncture by their educational body.
3. The practitioner must provide evidence that they are members in good standing with the Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Association of Canada, the Acupuncture Foundation of Canada Institute or other such organizations as may be recognized by the NBCA.
4. The practitioner must provide evidence that they have professional liability protection or insurance pertaining directly to the provision of acupuncture.
5. The practitioner must maintain patient records pertaining directly to the provision of acupuncture.
6. The practitioner must obtain signed informed consent directly pertaining to acupuncture.
7. The practitioner must have the following supplies within their office: single use (disposable) sterile acupuncture needles; appropriate sterilization apparatus for needle injectors; alcohol swabs/ betadine swabs/ stanhexidene swabs; patient safety bell; protective gloves and hazardous waste disposal container.

### **Grandparenting Clause**

Chiropractors who have actively practised acupuncture as an adjunctive therapy in their chiropractic practice for a minimum of five consecutive years immediately before the enactment of this Standard of Practice will be deemed to have met the qualifications to practise acupuncture as an adjunctive therapy, as outlined above.

Actively practising acupuncture as an adjunctive therapy means performing 100 acupuncture treatments per year for each of the last five years within a chiropractic practice.

It is also recommended that the Continued Education Committee confirms the above criteria are met on an annual basis and present the list of members who satisfy the above criteria to the Acting-Registrar of the NBCA. The list should be updated from time to time to accommodate newly trained practitioners.

Any disputes involving positions taken by this Standard of Practice on Acupuncture as an adjunctive therapy of chiropractic in New Brunswick would be bound by the regulatory body of the NBCA review.

### **Enforceability**

Any member identified to the Complaints Committee or the Board of Directors as non-compliant in the Standard of Practice related to provision of acupuncture as an adjunctive

chiropractic treatment is subject to the investigations and complaints process under Section 33 of the Association's *Professional Incorporation Act, Bill 45,1997*.

Identification may occur as a result of Practice Visit process, patient complaint or any other means by which the information may be brought to the attention of the Complaints Committee or the Board of Directors.

**Penalty**

- First Offense: \$1,000 fine plus a written warning.
- Second Offense: \$2,500 fine plus a written reprimand to the member's file.
- Third Offense: \$5,000 fine plus additional sanctions for professional misconduct as prescribed by the Complaint Committee.