

COLORADO ACUPUNCTURE LICENSURE

Policies of the Director

POLICY NUMBER: 1

Title: Injection Therapy

Date Issued: July 1, 1999

Date(s) Revised:

Reference:

Purpose: To clarify the use of injection therapy and permissible substances for injection in the practice of acupuncture

POLICY: In July 1999, the Director of Registrations for the Acupuncture Licensure determined injection therapy to be within the scope of acupuncture practice.

As defined in section 12-29.5-102(3.5), C.R.S., acupuncture is a profession based on traditional oriental medical concepts, but does not include the utilization of western medical diagnostic tests and procedures. The practice of acupuncture includes the insertion and removal of acupuncture needles, heat therapies, and traditional oriental adjunctive therapies. The realm of traditional oriental adjunctive therapies is broad and includes manual, mechanical, thermal, electrical, and electromagnetic treatment; the recommendation of oriental therapeutic exercises; and the recommendation of herbs and dietary guidelines.

Injection therapy is the injection of sterile herbs, vitamins, minerals, homeopathics, or other similar-type substances into acupuncture points by means of hypodermic needles. The therapy is used primarily to treat chronic musculoskeletal pain. Although injection therapy is not considered an entry-level skill, the Director finds that acupuncturists receive substantial needle training and have proficient knowledge in the areas of trigger points. The Director notes that four states (Arkansas, Florida, New Mexico, and South Carolina) have found injection therapy to be within the scope of acupuncture. These factors provide the basis for the Director's determination that injection therapy falls within the scope of acupuncture.

Permissible substances for injection include all vitamins, minerals, homeopathics and herbals specifically manufactured for non-intravenous injection such as saline, glucose, Lidocaine, Procaine, oriental herbs, Vitamin B-12, Traumeel, Sarapin, and similar homeopathic-type substances. The Director notes that there is always the risk of allergic reaction when using injection substances. As such, the Director finds that the use of Epinephrine and oxygen are necessary for patient care and safety anytime Colorado acupuncturists administer injections.

Similar to other advanced procedures practiced within the scope of acupuncture, but not necessarily taught in an entry-level educational program, the Director expects acupuncturists to obtain the necessary training prior to performing injection therapy. Training programs should include information about anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, risk management, injection techniques, and actual application.

Therefore, the Director determines that injection therapy falls within the scope of acupuncture as defined in section 12-29.5-102(3.5), C.R.S., and may be independently practiced by Colorado-licensed acupuncturists.