

SC10: ACUPUNCTURE

DEFINITIONS

Acupuncture

Acupuncture is one of the main forms of treatment in traditional Chinese medicine. It involves the use of sharp, thin needles that are inserted in the body at very specific points. This process is believed to adjust and alter the body's energy flow into healthier patterns, and is used to treat a wide variety of illnesses and health conditions

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. THERAPISTS

Only suitably qualified therapists may provide acupuncture treatments. Qualifications must be from an awarding organisation regulated by Ofqual (<https://www.gov.uk/find-a-regulated-qualification>) or be from an approved training provider as agreed by the Council in writing.

2. AGE RESTRICTIONS

No one under the age of 16 will be permitted to have treatment without a parent or guardian being present and signing the consent form.

3. CLIENT CONSULTATION

A relevant client consultation must be carried out at the time of a first visit and prior to any treatment. This must include a thorough medical history in relation to the treatment being requested and full explanation of any possible contra-indications.

4. VISUAL ASSESSMENT

An assessment of the condition of the area to be treated must be carried out prior to commencing treatment. Where necessary notes/diagrams should be made regarding conditions, areas not to be treated.

Treatments must not be carried out on or within 10cms of an infected area of skin, a rash, cut or other wound.

5. RECORD KEEPING

Records must be kept for every client. The records must include details of medical history checks and steps taken to verify the age of the client including their date of birth and the type of identification provided (where appropriate). This record must be signed by the client/parent/guardian (as appropriate) as a declaration of agreement to proceeding with the treatment following the explanation of any associated risks.

Records may be stored on paper or electronically. Records must be made available upon request from an Authorised Officer of the Council, such records must be produced within 3 days of any such request.

6. PERSONAL HYGIENE

Persons carrying out treatments must ensure that:-

- their hands are kept clean and washed immediately prior to carrying out a treatment,
- they maintain a high degree of personal cleanliness and wear suitable, clean and appropriate protective clothing,
- they do not smoke or consume food or drink during the course of a treatment.

Persons shall not administer treatments whilst afflicted by either a known or suspected ailment or being a carrier of a disease likely to be transmitted during treatment.

Persons carrying out treatments shall ensure that any open sores, cuts, boils, broken skin or other open wounds are effectively covered with waterproof impermeable dressings. If such cuts are on the hands gloves shall be worn over the waterproof dressings.

7. INFECTION CONTROL

(a) Therapists must wear clean clothing when carrying out treatments. Where there is a possibility of clothing being contaminated by bodily fluids protective clothing such as disposable aprons must be worn. If any clothing becomes contaminated during a treatment the therapist must change clothes prior to completing any other duties at the premises.

(b) Therapists must wear disposable single use vinyl or non-latex gloves whilst carrying out a treatment. Gloves must be renewed for each client.

8. SHARPS INJURY

There must be a procedure for dealing with needle/ sharps injuries. All employees must be made aware of the procedure.

9. CLEANING AND STERILISATION

In addition to the cleaning and sterilisation requirements set out in Part II of the General Licence Conditions for all special treatment premises:-

(a) All surfaces that come into contact with staff equipment or clients must be disinfected daily.

(b) All needles/razors must be single use and disposable.

(c) Any surfaces used during treatments must be disinfected prior to use.

(d) Any treatment chair/ couches must be disinfected after each client.

(e) Any equipment that has been contaminated with blood however small must be cleaned and sterilized.

10. AFTERCARE

Appropriate aftercare advice must be provided following each treatment. This must include information on actions to take if any adverse conditions occur. Where possible this should be given in written form for the client to take away.