

**653—17.8(147,148E,272C) General provisions.**

**17.8(1) *Diagnostic and treatment modalities.*** Diagnostic and treatment modalities used by licensees under this chapter may include one or more of the following acupunctural services:

*a.* The stimulation or piercing of the skin with an acupuncture needle for any of the following purposes:

(1) To evoke a therapeutic physiological response, either locally or distally to the area of insertion or stimulation.

(2) To relieve pain or treat the neuromusculoskeletal system.

(3) To stimulate ashi acupuncture points to relieve pain and dysfunction.

(4) To promote, maintain, and restore health and to prevent disease.

(5) To stimulate the body according to auricular, hand, nose, face, foot or scalp acupuncture therapy.

(6) To use acupuncture needles with or without the use of herbs, electric current, or application of heat.

*b.* The use of oriental medical diagnosis and treatment, including:

(1) Moxibustion, cupping, thermal methods, magnets, gua sha scraping techniques, acupatches, herbal poultices, hot and cold packs, electromagnetic wave therapy, light and color therapy, sound therapy, or therapy lasers.

(2) Massage, acupressure, reflexology, shiatsu and tui na massage, or manual stimulation, including stimulation by an instrument or mechanical device that does not pierce the skin.

(3) Herbal medicine and dietary supplements, including those of plant, mineral, animal, and nutraceutical origin.

*c.* Any other adjunctive service or procedure that is clinically appropriate based on the licensee's training as approved by NCCAOM or ACAOM.

**17.8(2) *Use and disposal of needles.*** A licensee shall use only presterilized, disposable needles and shall provide for the disposal of used needles in accordance with the requirements of the department.

**17.8(3) *Standard of care.*** A licensee shall be held to the same standard of care as persons licensed to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery. Pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.3, any error or omission, unreasonable lack of skill, or failure to maintain a reasonable standard of care in the practice of acupuncture constitutes malpractice and is grounds for the revocation or suspension of a license to practice acupuncture in this state.

**17.8(4) *Title.*** An acupuncturist licensed under this title may use the words "licensed acupuncturist" or "L.Ac." to connote professional standing after the licensee's name in accordance with Iowa Code section 147.74(18).

**17.8(5) *Change of contact information.*** Licensees shall notify the board of changes in home address, address of the place of practice, home or practice telephone number, or personal email address regularly used by the applicant or licensee for correspondence with the board within one month of the change.

**17.8(6) *Delegation of responsibilities.*** A licensee shall perform all aspects of acupuncture treatment that involve penetration of the skin of a patient. The licensee may delegate other aspects of treatment to staff and patients who are properly trained by the licensee. It is permissible for appropriately trained staff and patients to remove acupuncture needles from the patient's body. The licensee is responsible for establishing and maintaining written training standards for staff.

**17.8(7) *Change of full legal name.*** A licensee shall notify the board of any change in the licensee's full legal name within one month of making the name change. Notification requires a notarized copy of a marriage license or a notarized copy of court documents.

**17.8(8) *Deceased.*** A licensee's file will be closed and labeled "deceased" when the board receives a copy of the licensee's death certificate or other reliable information of the licensee's death.

[ARC 9116C, IAB 4/16/25, effective 5/21/25]