

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY**

TREATMENT POLICY – 02

SUBJECT: Acupuncture

ISSUED: May 1, 1994, revised June 2001, March 2007

EFFECTIVE: May 1, 1994

PURPOSE:

To establish the standards for the use of acupuncture when it is used as adjunct therapy in substance abuse treatment.

SCOPE:

The Michigan Department of Community Health/Office of Drug Control Policy will allow community grant expenditures for acupuncture as adjunct therapy in any substance abuse treatment setting: residential, intensive outpatient, individual or group outpatient. Acupuncture may be used either in drug-free or medication-assisted treatment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1972, the use of auricular acupuncture for acute drug withdrawal was developed in Hong Kong. Shortly thereafter, Michael Smith, M.D., a psychiatrist at Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx, New York City, started using it extensively. Dr. Smith developed a five-point auricular protocol, which has been adopted by the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association. The following ear points are used in the protocol: liver, kidney, lung, sympathetic nervous system, and shen men (spirit gate). Stimulation of these ear points reduces stress and anxiety, which allows the patient to be more receptive to counseling. It also lessens depression and insomnia. It alleviates the craving for substances, thus aiding in recovery. It should be noted that the term “detoxification” is used in an eastern concept and is meant to be used throughout the treatment continuum and to prevent relapse rather than the initial stage of treatment.

Auricular acupuncture offers a low-cost way to enhance outcomes and lower the total cost of substance abuse treatment. It has been shown to be effective in relieving the symptoms of withdrawal from alcohol, heroin, and crack cocaine; making patients more receptive to treatment; reducing or eliminating the need for medication-assisted treatment; and lessening the chances of relapse. Auricular acupuncture has been used successfully in treating pregnant substance abusing women and drug-exposed infants who are going through withdrawal.

Non-auricular acupuncture points can also be used as part of an individualized acupuncture treatment plan when performed by a registered acupuncturist.

TREATMENT POLICY #02

EFFECTIVE: May 1, 1994

Page 2 of 3

Acupuncture may be done as adjunct therapy to any treatment modality in any setting. Counseling, 12-step programs, relapse prevention, referral for supportive services, and life skills training are all components of a comprehensive program that can include acupuncture. Auricular acupuncture for substance abuse treatment appears to work best in a group setting. In keeping with the philosophy of Chinese medicine, the patient is encouraged to be actively involved in his/her own treatment and to see his/her substance abuse as part of his/her total emotional, physical, and spiritual health and its relationship to other people and the environment.

REQUIREMENTS:

Michigan Law

Acupuncture may be performed by the following individuals: a) Medical Doctor, b) Doctor of Osteopathy, c) Registered Acupuncturist. An individual who holds a Certificate of Training in Detoxification Acupuncture as an Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist (ADS) issued by the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) and is under the supervision of a person licensed to practice medicine in the state may use the NADA protocol for substance abuse treatment. The supervising physician need not be trained in acupuncture nor present when the procedure is performed.

Disposable sterile needles must be used for all acupuncture treatments.

Michigan Compiled Laws, from the Public Health Code, pertaining to acupuncture:

333.16215 Supervision of Acupuncture

333.16501 Definition of Acupuncturist

333.16511 Exemption from Registration

PROCEDURE:

The recommended procedure for the use of acupuncture as a substance abuse treatment support is the protocol developed by the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA). This five point auricular protocol is the only procedure allowed to be done by the NADA trained and certified ADS. Registered Acupuncturists and physicians may use their professional judgment and expertise in determining the acupuncture points to be used.

REFERENCES:

Acupuncture: Current Bibliographies in Medicine 97-6. National Library of Medicine.

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>

Acupuncture Information and Resources: National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. <http://nccam.nih.gov>

Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Alliance. <http://www.acuall.org>

TREATMENT POLICY #02

EFFECTIVE: May 1, 1994

Page 3 of 3

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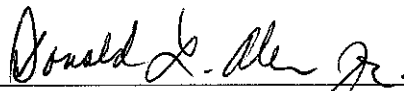
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APPROVED BY: 

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