



POLICY NO:	513
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MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

MRC Scope of Practice: Acupuncturist

Purpose: To define the scope of practice for volunteer Acupuncturists providing treatment as a MRC volunteer in Santa Barbara County or deployment. Deployment standard to include possession of a valid Acupuncture license issued by the California State Acupuncture Board.

Authority: California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Chapter 13.7; The National Association Detoxification Acupuncture (NADA) Treatment Protocol Guidelines.

Procedure or Policy: The scope of Acupuncture practice in Santa Barbara County shall be in accordance with applicable sections of the Acupuncture Licensure Act as outlined in accordance with California Acupuncture Board.

1399.451. Treatment Procedures.

In treating a patient, an acupuncturist shall adhere to the following procedures:

- (a) The acupuncturist's hands shall be brush-scrubbed with soap and warm water immediately before examining patients or handling acupuncture needles and other instruments, and between patients. [If soap and warm water are unavailable, acupuncturist may utilize current medical guidelines as stated by the CDC]
- (b) All instruments shall be sterilized before and between uses in a manner which will destroy all microorganisms. All needle trays which contain sterile needles shall also be sterile. Each time instruments are sterilized, the acupuncturist shall use a tape or strip indicator which shows that sterilization is complete.
- (c) Acupuncture points, where needles are to be inserted, shall be cleaned with an appropriate antiseptic before insertion of the needle.
- (d) In the event an acupuncture needle inserted in a patient breaks subcutaneously, the treating acupuncturist shall immediately consult a physician. An acupuncturist shall not sever or penetrate the tissues in order to excise such a needle.
- (e) Any complication, including but not limited to, hematoma, peritonitis or Pneumothorax arising out of acupuncture treatment shall be referred immediately to a physician or dentist or podiatrist, if appropriate, if immediate medical treatment is required.
- (f) Acupuncture shall not be performed using hypodermic needles.
- (g) All instruments to be discarded shall be disposed of safely.

APPROVED:

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(h) Needles shall be disposed of by placing them in a sealed, unbreakable container marked "Hazardous Waste" and disposed of in accordance with state and local law.

1399.452. Treatments Outside the Office.

(a) Any acupuncturist who provides acupuncture treatment outside the office shall carry the required sterile needles and other instruments in a sterile airtight container.

(b) All standards of practice applicable to treatment outside the office shall be adhered to by the acupuncturist providing such treatment.

1399.453. Record keeping.

An acupuncturist shall keep complete and accurate records on each patient who is given acupuncture treatment, including but not limited to, treatments given and progress made as a result of the acupuncture treatments.

1399.454. Single Use Needles.

An acupuncturist shall use needles labeled for single use only that meet the requirements of federal regulations 21 CFR Part 880.5580 (61 FR 64617, December 6, 1996). It shall constitute unprofessional conduct for an acupuncturist to use a needle more than once.

EXAMPLE OF DUTIES

- A. May conduct professional assessment, including taking of pulse, evaluating tongue, verbal health history, and current emotional state. Communicate effectively verbally and in writing, work with groups and maintain confidentiality of information.
- B. An Acupuncturist may evaluate need for, and perform acupuncture, limited to NADA five point auricular treatment protocol, to reduce the symptoms of stress, fatigue, pain, and trauma.
- C. Shall coordinate patient care with other health professionals, maintain accurate records, and document actions taken. See attachment for sample patient consent/treatment form.
- D. May also provide preventative treatments to responders and healthcare practitioners to combat cumulative symptoms of stress, burnout, and secondary trauma.