



MINNESOTA ACUPUNCTURE ASSOCIATION FACT SHEET

Acupuncture is a comprehensive health care system encompassing a variety of traditional and modern health care therapies to diagnose and treat illness, prevent disease and improve well-being.

Background on Licensed Acupuncturists in Minnesota

- Acupuncture is one of the fastest growing medical therapies worldwide because it is effective, safe, affordable and portable.
- The MN Board of Medical Practice has licensed professional acupuncturists since 1995.
- Minnesota has credentialed over 800 licensed acupuncturists.
- Licensed Acupuncturists contribute to both MN Care Provider and Sales Tax.
- Currently you may find licensed acupuncturist in hospitals, private practice, universities, integrative health care clinics and the Veterans Hospitals.
- Acupuncture is a covered service under the Medicaid and MnCare.
- Acupuncturists will play a key role in reducing the costs of healthcare and reducing the demand on primary care.

The Minnesota Acupuncture Association is the statewide professional association for licensed practitioners of Acupuncture and Oriental medicine. We are committed to advancing Acupuncture and Oriental medicine as a means for enhancing health and well being.

Our **organizational goals** are to:

- **Expand** Acupuncture coverage in Medicaid to include acute pain.
- **Added** acupuncture coverage in the essential health benefits for **both** chronic and acute pain.
- **Promote and fully utilize** acupuncture therapies to help combat opiate addiction issues within the state.

2018 Legislative Bills to Support:

1. Bills for “Oriental” Name change

Removing “Oriental” and replacing with “Traditional and/or Modern Evidence Based East Asian Medicine”.

SF 2708 Hawj, Wiger, Hoffman, Abeler, Mathews

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=SF2708&y=2018&ssn=0&b=senate>

HF 3041 May Quade, Lee

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=House&f=HF3041&ssn=0&y=2017>

A bill for an act relating to health occupations; modifying terms used to describe certain practices of acupuncture practitioners and complementary and alternative health care practitioners.



2. Bill for an Alternative Pain Management Pilot Program

Acupuncture use for pain relief to reduce opioid prescriptions established, report required, and money appropriated.

HF 2389 Gruenhagen

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=House&f=HF2389&ssn=0&y=2017>

SF1958

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=SF1958&y=2017&ssn=0&b=senate>

A bill for an act relating to human services; establishing a study on use of acupuncture for pain relief to reduce opioid prescriptions; requiring a report; appropriating money.

3. Bill for Health professional continuing education requirements modified, and acupuncture service coverage provided.

Bonnie Bolash (constituent) and Representative Freiberg that we support:

HF95

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=HF0095&y=2017&ssn=0&b=house>

SF 623

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?f=sf0623&ssn=0&y=2017>

A bill for an act relating to health; modifying continuing education requirements for certain health professionals; providing coverage for certain acupuncture services; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 214.12, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 62Q.

Thank you,

Valerie Overby L.Ac. Dipl. OM (NCCAOM)
President | Minnesota Acupuncture Association
612-258-4509
valerieoverby@gmail.com
www.mnacupuncture.org