

West Virginia  
Board of Acupuncture

Annual Report  
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Scope of Practice

Applicants are required to understand the "Scope of Practice" which sets the limitations upon their practices in the State of West Virginia. The West Virginia Code Chapter 30, Article 36, Section 2, defines the scope of acupuncture in the State of West Virginia. This definition is further defined by Rules of the Board of Acupuncture, Title 32 as approved by the Legislature. Practitioners regulated and licensed by the West Virginia Board of Acupuncture must adhere to these guidelines. Practicing outside of the West Virginia Code or Board Rules can result in Reprimand, Probation, Fines, Suspension and finally Revocation of your licensure.

Definitions under the West Virginia Code:

Acupuncture- means a form of health care, based on a theory of energetic physiology, that describes the interrelationship of the body organs or functions with an associated point or combination of points.

Moxibustion- means the burning of mugwort on or near the skin to stimulate the acupuncture point.

Practice Acupuncture- means the use of Oriental medical therapies for the purpose of normalizing energetic physiological functions including pain control, and for the promotion, maintenance and restoration of health.

Therapies specifically included under the West Virginia Code:

Needling- the stimulation of points of the body by the insertion of acupuncture needles.

Moxibustion- the application of moxa to or near the acupoint.

Manual- the use of Oriental manual therapies for assessment and treatment, such as massage, joint mobilizations, Anma, Tuina, Shiatsu, and Qigong. These therapies can be used to correct structural imbalances only when used in accordance with traditional and modern oriental medical theory.

Mechanical- the use of mechanical devices, such as cups, hammers, and other mechanical vibrators which are used to assess and treat the physiological condition of an acupoint or combination of acupoints. The use of mechanical devices must be in accordance with traditional and modern oriental medical theory.

Electrical- the use of electrical devices for assessment and treatment, such as point stimulators, lasers, TENS units, light/ spectrum therapies, ion pumps and magnets when used in accordance with traditional and modern Oriental medical theory.

Thermal- the use of thermal devices for assessment and treatment, such as infra red, diathermy, ultra sound, and interferential when used in accordance with traditional and modern Oriental medical theory.

Point Puncture- the use of sterile material medica injected into the acupuncture point for physiologic or energetic therapy when used in accordance with traditional or modern Oriental medical theory.

Materia Medica- the use of herbs, vitamins, minerals, organ extracts, homeopathics, or physiologic materials for energetic or physiologic therapy when used in accordance with traditional or modern Oriental medical theory.