



# MPAA Standards of Practice

## **1. By-Laws and Ethics**

Members of MPAA are Registered Acupuncturists and have met the professional education requirements as outlined by MPAA By-Laws. They must adhere to the Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics, By-Laws and policies as set out by the MPAA. Members of MPAA are expected to provide safe and ethical care to patients. Members shall not exploit a patient's vulnerability for their own interests or gain, whether sexual, emotional, social, political, financial, or any other way.

## **2. Acupuncturist Principles, Diagnosis and Treatment in Practice**

MPAA members should meet core competencies for fundamental TCM theory, diagnosis, and treatment as outlined in "Core Competencies of Regulated Acupuncture in Canada" document.

## **3. Safety in Acupuncture Practice**

MPAA members are expected to appropriately select and maintain acupuncture equipment, including initial assessment of types of equipment and quality of manufacturing, plus on-going inspection for safe operation, cleanliness, sterilization and disposal. At all times, members must adhere to clean needle techniques. Members will use only single use, disposable needles for acupuncture treatments. Members should be able to manage adverse reactions to acupuncture treatments

(fainting, needle bending/breaking, stuck needle, emergency medical conditions during therapy) including initiating emergency measures and referring to physician or emergency care provider as appropriate. Members must be aware of, respect, and follow all applicable local, provincial or other regulatory requirements/protocols pertaining to public health, infection control, office hygiene and protection of the environment. Members will use good judgement and appropriate precautions when initiating treatment or providing ongoing treatment of patients with serious medical conditions or infectious diseases, and will refer to other health care professionals as appropriate.

#### **4. Communication with Patients and Other Health Care Providers**

MPAA members should have the knowledge and skills to listen to, explain and educate the patient about health and illness as related to acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine. Members must demonstrate compassion for and respect towards patients. MPAA members should be aware of the roles and responsibilities of other health care providers. They should be able to effectively communicate with other caregivers and health care professionals, and facilitate referrals, consultations, and collaborate as appropriate in a timely manner. MPAA members must not advise a patient to discontinue any treatment prescribed by a physician or other health care provider. Members must respect the confidentiality of patient information, and follow guidelines as outlined in the Personal Health Information Act (PHIA) and the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). Members should be aware of the proper procedure to release a patient from care.

## **5. Documentation and Record Keeping**

MPAA members must maintain patient confidentiality in accordance with Personal Health Information Act (PHIA) and the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). Members must store records in a safe and secure place. They must maintain legible, and complete record of each patient visit, in English. Members shall obtain informed consent for acupuncture treatment and maintain documentation of informed consent within the patient record. Patient records shall be maintained for 10 (ten) years from the last treatment date with the clinic and/or acupuncturist, or 10 (ten) years after the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in the case of a minor. MPAA members must obtain patient consent prior to the release of record to another practitioner, insurance company, or any other agency or person, except where required by law. Members must have honest and ethical billing practices. They must only bill for services, treatments, and goods provided. The receipt must include the date that the treatment, service or goods were provided and to whom it was provided.

## **6. Continuing Education**

MPAA members must complete a minimum of 15 hours every year.