

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR ATs WHO PERFORM ACUPUNCTURE

As indicated previously in OATA communiqués, effective April 1, 2013 the performance of acupuncture returns to the controlled act regime of the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA). That means that ATs may NOT lawfully perform acupuncture after that date and any AT who does so would be liable to be charged with unauthorized practice, unless

- The AT is competent to perform acupuncture safely and effectively and has been delegated the authority to do so by a regulated healthcare practitioner who is legally authorized himself or herself to perform acupuncture, such as a chiropractor or physiotherapist, or
- The AT is a member in good standing of a regulatory College whose members are authorized to perform acupuncture and the AT satisfies whatever requirements that College has specified for acupuncture.
- The acupuncture is delivered as part of an addiction treatment program in a health facility.

Only the regulatory colleges for chiropodists, podiatrists, chiropractors, massage therapists, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, traditional chinese medicine practitioners and acupuncturists, naturopaths and dentists are legally authorized to perform acupuncture and to delegate the procedure to Athletic Therapists. The various Colleges specify different requirements and competencies for the performance of acupuncture. If an AT is a member of any of those Colleges and has met the College's requirements to perform acupuncture, he/she may do so without a delegation. Members of the College of Kinesiologists may perform acupuncture only if they are qualified to do so and receive a delegation from a member of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists.

SIMPLY COMPLETING A COURSE IN ACUPUNCTURE DOES NOT AUTHORIZE ANYONE TO PERFORM ACUPUNCTURE ---- NOTWITHSTANDING WHAT THE COURSE PROMOTERS MAY CLAIM.

The OATA urges its members to abide strictly by the law. The consequences of performing acupuncture without lawful authority are potentially severe for the practitioner and would also reflect badly on the profession as it pursues regulation. Your professional liability coverage may also be voided if you perform acupuncture unlawfully.