

Acupuncture Delineation of Privileges for the Department of Pediatrics

Justification for Acupuncture as part of Delineation of Practice in Pediatrics: Per the New York State Licensing website “Many conditions may respond to acupuncture, including those related to neurological system, musculo-skeletal system, respiratory system, gynecologic and reproductive system, digestive system and genito-urinary system. Acupuncture may also help with acute and chronic pain, maintaining emotional balance, stress reduction and detoxification.” Children and adolescents commonly suffer from health conditions related to the above organ systems and seek assistance from their pediatricians to address acute and chronic pain, mental health issues and management of stress. Given that these conditions are amenable to acupuncture, it is within the scope of general pediatric practice to offer acupuncture as a treatment option to pediatric and adolescent patients when the pediatrician has received appropriate training and has attained certification and licensure per New York State requirements.

Training, certification and licensure requirements: Granting of acupuncture privileges in the Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University should be based on: 1) NY State requirements for physicians to practice acupuncture in the state as part of the New York State physician acupuncture license, and 2) eligibility to sit for the American Board of Medical Acupuncture (ABMA) certification examination which can be found at the ABMA website. The ABMA examination eligibility requirements are similar to the New York State licensing requirements delineated below:

In New York State, licensed physicians who use acupuncture in their professional practice must be certified. To be certified to use acupuncture in New York State, a physician must be a New York State licensed physician currently registered to practice medicine and meet additional education and training requirements. The specific requirements for certification are contained in Parts 60.9 and 59.9(e) of the Commissioner's Regulations at the NYSED.gov website, Office of the Professions, under the Medicine section. Qualifications for a certificate to practice acupuncture, require that a physician possess a license to practice medicine and have completed at least 200 hours of instruction in a program in acupuncture registered by the NY State Education Department (NYSED), or in a program determined by the NYSED to be the equivalent of registered programs, and at least 100 hours of supervised experience acceptable to the NYSED. Instruction in acupuncture shall consist of: 1) at least 100 hours of instruction and clinical demonstrations in general and basic aspects of acupuncture; 2) at least 100 hours of sequential specialized instruction in specific uses and techniques of acupuncture. Topics of instruction shall include indications and contraindications for acupuncture administration, techniques for locating acupuncture points, needling and stimulating techniques, and trainee participation in administration of acupuncture in clinical demonstrations; and 3) at least 100 hours of supervised experience acceptable to the NYSED and under the supervision of a currently registered physician in acupuncture. There is no acupuncture examination requirement by NYSED unless a physician applying for certification from New York State is unable to submit satisfactory evidence of the education and training requirements, but meets all other requirements for an authorization to practice acupuncture.

Maintenance of Acupuncture Skill and Licensure: Maintenance of acupuncture skill is identical to any other clinical procedure that is within the scope of general pediatric practice,

such as bladder catheterization, intravenous line placement, suturing, etc. **Maintenance of Licensure for the New York Physician Acupuncture License** must be renewed every two years through the New York State Education Department's Office of the Professions. Similarly to the renewal requirements of a general medical license in New York State, there are no training requirements to renew the physician acupuncture license. To maintain board certification eligibility (required every 10 years for Diplomats of the ABMA), the ABMA requires physicians to participate in a recertification program that includes documentation of a current, valid, unrestricted license to practice medicine or osteopathy in a U.S. licensing jurisdiction, accumulation of 150 hours of continuing acupuncture education over the preceding 10 year period, and submission of two written case reports from the physician's own clinical acupuncture care experience which is used to evaluate continued proficiency in acupuncture medicine.