



YUKON WORKERS'
COMPENSATION
HEALTH AND
SAFETY BOARD

SUBJECT: ACUPUNCTURE POLICY NO.: CL - 49
BOARD APPROVAL: [Signature]
APPROVAL DATE: 95-04-13 [Signature]
BOARD ORDER NO.: _____
EFFECTIVE DATE: 95-05-01 **REVOKED**

POLICY STATEMENT

JUL 12 2005
[Signature]

Replaced by CL-55
Complimentary Treatment
effective July 12, 2005

SECTION
REFERENCE: **28**

POLICY: **ACUPUNCTURE**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Under the Workers' Compensation Act section 28.(1) states;

The board may provide a worker with any medical aid, including services, devices, or equipment, necessary to grant relief from a work - related disability; further section 28.(3) states;

The board may contract with medical practitioners, nurses, hospitals, and other professionals and institutions for the provision of medical aid to any worker who is entitled to compensation.

Acupuncture has been defined by the Yukon Medical Council as a medical procedure regardless of the method used and is considered to have a valid role in the management of patients with selected pains and syndromes.

A. DEFINITIONS

(a) ACUPUNCTURE

Acupuncture has been defined as a form of stimulation to and through the skin, muscles or nerves, by needles or by other means with similar effect as needles, to initiate changes in the locally treated tissues or peripheral, autonomic or central nervous system to bring about therapy of disease.

(b) CERTIFIED PRACTITIONER

For the purposes of this policy a Certified Practitioner is an M.D. licensed in the Yukon, certified by the Acupuncture Foundation of Canada and has approval of the Yukon Medical Council to apply acupuncture skills in their medical practice.

(c) PRIMARY PHYSICIAN

For the purposes of this policy the Primary Physician is the M.D. responsible for the workers' medical rehabilitation.

B. POLICY

Acupuncture may be utilized as an appropriate form of medical treatment for a compensable injury.

If a non-compensable pre-existing condition exists which is directly impairing the recovery from a compensable injury Acupuncture may be utilized as an appropriate form of medical treatment for the non-compensable pre-existing condition only so far as it facilitates a speedy recovery from the compensable injury.

Recommendation and referral for Acupuncture Treatments will be made by the Primary Physician.

A Claims Adjudicator shall approve or not approve Acupuncture Treatments as recommended or referred by the Primary Physician.

An Acupuncture Treatment regime shall not exceed 10 (ten) treatment sessions.

C. EXTENSION OF TREATMENT

If at the end of 10 (ten) Acupuncture Treatment sessions the Primary Physician, in consultation with the worker, feels that a continuation of Acupuncture Treatment would be of benefit in the recovery from a compensable injury a request for extension may be made.

Extension of Acupuncture Treatment beyond 10 (ten) sessions may be granted by a Claims Adjudicator based on a review and recommendation by the Board's Medical Consultant.

D. EVALUATION

This policy shall be evaluated for its impact on the treatment of compensable injuries one year from its' effective date.

Evaluation of Acupuncture Treatment related to this policy shall be conducted in consultation with the Yukon Medical Council and Certified Practitioners.

REFERENCES

Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board:
Pre-Existing Conditions Policy Statement
Rehabilitation Policy Statement