



**State of Vermont**  
**Office of the Secretary of State**

**Office of Professional Regulation**  
89 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3402  
www.sec.state.vt.us

**James C. Condos, Secretary of State**  
**Christopher D. Winters, Deputy Secretary**  
**S. Lauren Hibbert, Director**

Dear Licensee,

The Governor has signed H.104 (Act 30), an act relating to professions and occupations regulated by the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR). The Act-30 provisions relevant to acupuncture can be viewed [here](#). They become effective July 1, 2019:

- **Auriculotherapy is deregulated.**
  - Auriculotherapy certifications previously issued by the Office become **inactive on July 1, 2019** and should no longer be displayed.
  - Individuals previously licensed as Acupuncture Detoxification Technicians may carry on in their usual activities without paying licensing fees or maintaining supervision agreements.
  - An individual who is not licensed as an acupuncturist may practice auriculotherapy if he or she: (1) has appropriate training in clean needle technique, (2) uses sterile, single-use needles, without reuse, (3) does not claim to treat any disease, disorder, infirmity or affliction by using auriculotherapy, (4) does not use any letters, words, or insignia indicating or implying that he or she is an acupuncturist, and (5) does not make any statement implying that his or her practice of auriculotherapy is licensed, certified or otherwise overseen by the State of Vermont.
  
- **The definition of acupuncture practice has been updated to improve its clarity. These amendments do not affect any substantial change in the lawful scope of acupuncture practice.**
  - “Acupuncture” or the “practice of acupuncture” means the insertion of fine needles through the skin at certain points on the body, with or without the application of electric current or the application of heat to the needles or skin, or both, for the purpose of promoting health and well-being or to prevent or alleviate pain or unease.
  - The “scope of practice” of acupuncturists has been amended to clarify that acupuncturists may offer a functional diagnosis—one based on the complaint that brings a patient to the clinic—without exceeding the scope of practice. Many third-party payers, for example, require ICD codes:
    - a. A licensed acupuncturist may, in addition to the practice of acupuncture employing fine needles, in a manner consistent with acupuncture theory, employ electrical, magnetic, thermal, and mechanical skin stimulation techniques; nonlaboratory diagnostic techniques; nutritional, herbal, and manual therapies; exercise and lifestyle counseling; acupressure; and massage.
    - b. A licensed acupuncturist shall not offer diagnosis of any human pathology except for a functional diagnosis, based upon the physical complaint of a patient or acupuncture theory, for purposes of developing and managing a plan of acupuncture care, or as necessary to document to insurers and other payers the reason a patient sought care

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ACT](#)

**Statutory amendments may not be reflected in the Vermont Statutes Online for several months.**

**Complete information on your profession can be found on OPR's website at:**

<https://www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation/list-of-professions/acupuncturists.aspx>

