

# Chapter 246-855 WAC

## OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS' ACUPUNCTURE ASSISTANTS

### WAC

246-855-010	Acupuncture—Definition.
246-855-020	Acupuncture assistant education.
246-855-030	Acupuncture—Program approval.
246-855-040	Osteopathic acupuncture physicians' assistant's examination.
246-855-050	Investigation.
246-855-060	English fluency.
246-855-070	Supervising physicians' knowledge of acupuncture.
246-855-080	Utilization.
246-855-090	Prohibited techniques and tests.
246-855-100	AIDS education and training.
246-855-110	Application for registration.

### DISPOSITION OF SECTIONS FORMERLY CODIFIED IN THIS CHAPTER

246-855-120	Registration renewal requirement. [Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-120, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: 1988 c 206 § 604. WSR 88-23-124 (Order PM 801), § 308-138B-200, filed 11/23/88.] Repealed by WSR 91-20-120 (Order 199B), filed 9/30/91, effective 10/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005.
-------------	--

**WAC 246-855-010 Acupuncture—Definition.** Acupuncture is a traditional system of medical theory, oriental diagnosis and treatment used to promote health and treat organic or functional disorders, by treating specific acupuncture points or meridians. Acupuncture includes the following techniques:

- (a) Use of acupuncture needles to stimulate acupuncture points and meridians.
- (b) Use of electrical, mechanical or magnetic devices to stimulate acupuncture points and meridians.
- (c) Moxibustion.
- (d) Acupressure.
- (e) Cupping.
- (f) Gwa hsa (dermal friction technique).
- (g) Infrared.
- (h) Sonopuncture.
- (i) Laser puncture.
- (j) Dietary advice.
- (k) Manipulative therapies.
- (l) Point injection therapy (aqua puncture).

These terms are to be understood within the context of the oriental medical art of acupuncture and as the board defines them.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-010, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005, 18.57A.020 and 18.57A.070. WSR 84-05-011 (Order PL 457), § 308-138B-165, filed 2/7/84.]

### WAC 246-855-020 Acupuncture assistant education.

Each applicant for an authorization to perform acupuncture must present evidence satisfactory to the board which discloses in detail the formal schooling or other type of training the applicant has previously undertaken which qualifies him or her as a practitioner of acupuncture. Satisfactory evidence

of formal schooling or other training may include, but is not limited to, certified copies of certificates or licenses which acknowledge that the person has the qualifications to practice acupuncture, issued to an applicant by the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), People's Republic of China, Korea or Japan. Whenever possible, all copies of official diplomas, transcripts and licenses or certificates should be forwarded directly to the board from the issuing agency rather than from the applicant. Individuals not licensed by the listed countries must document their education by means of transcripts, diplomas, patient logs verified by the preceptor, or by other means requested by the board. Applicants for registration must have successfully completed the following training:

(1) The applicant must have completed a minimum of two academic years or 72 quarter credits of undergraduate college education in the general sciences and humanities prior to entering an acupuncture training program. The obtaining of a degree is not required for the educational credits to qualify. Credits granted by the college towards prior life experience will not be accepted under this requirement.

(2) The applicant must have successfully completed a course of didactic training in basic sciences and acupuncture over a period of two academic years. The basic science training must include a minimum of 250 hours or 21 quarter credits and include such subjects as anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, biochemistry, pathology, hygiene and a survey in Western clinical sciences. The basic science classes must be equivalent to courses given in accredited bachelor of science programs. The acupuncture training must include a minimum of 700 hours or 58 quarter credits in acupuncture theory, and acupuncture diagnosis and treatment techniques. The board will not accept credits obtained on the basis of challenging an exam. Transfer credits from accredited colleges or board approved acupuncture programs will be accepted.

(3) The applicant must have successfully completed a course of clinical training in acupuncture over a period of one academic year. The training must include a minimum of 100 hours or 9 quarter credits of observation, which shall include case presentation and discussion. The observation portion of the clinical training may be conducted during the didactic training but will be considered part of the clinical training for calculation of hours or credits. There must also be a minimum of 350 hours or 29 quarter credits of supervised practice, consisting of 400 separate patient treatments. A minimum of 120 different patients must have been treated.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-020, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57A.020. WSR 83-16-024 (Order PL 440), § 308-138B-100, filed 7/27/83. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005 and 18.57A.020. WSR 82-17-005 (Order PL 402), § 308-138B-100, filed 8/5/82. Formerly WAC 308-138-100.]

**WAC 246-855-030 Acupuncture—Program approval.** (1) Procedure. The board will consider for approval any school, program, apprenticeship or tutorial which meets the requirements outlined in this regulation and provides the training required under WAC 246-855-020 - Acupuncture assistant education. Approval may be granted to an individual registration applicant's training, or to existing institutions which operate on a continuing basis. Clinical and didactic training may be approved as separate programs or as a joint program. The program approval process is as follows:

(a) Programs seeking approval shall file an application with the board in the format required by the board.

(b) The board will review the application and determine whether a site review is necessary (in the case of an institution) or an interview is appropriate (in the case of individual training) or approval may be granted on the basis of the application alone.

(c) The site review committee shall consist of two board members and one member of the board staff. The review committee may visit the program any time during school operating hours. The committee will report to the board in writing concerning the program's compliance with each section of the regulations.

(d) After reviewing all of the information collected concerning a program; the board may grant or deny approval, or grant approval conditional upon program modifications being made. In the event of denial or conditional approval, the program may request a hearing before the board. No approval shall be extended to an institution for more than three years, at which time a request for reapproval may be made.

(e) The board expects approved programs to not make changes which will result in the program not being in compliance with the regulations. Programs must notify the board concerning significant changes in administration, faculty or curriculum. The board may inspect the school at reasonable intervals to check for compliance. Program approval may be withdrawn, after a hearing, if the board finds the program no longer in compliance with the regulations.

(2) Didactic faculty. Didactic training may only be provided by persons who meet the criteria for faculty as stated in the council for postsecondary education's WAC 250-55-090 - Personal qualifications. Under no circumstances will an unregistered instructor perform or supervise the performance of acupuncture.

(3) Clinical faculty. Clinical training may be provided only by persons who meet the following criteria:

(a) The instructor must be a practitioner who has had a minimum of five years of full time acupuncture practice experience.

(b) If the training is conducted in this state, the practitioner must be registered to practice in this state. In the case of a school or program, the approval of the institution will include a review of the instructor's qualifications and the training arrangements. Approval of the instructors will extend to instruction conducted within the program.

(c) For training not conducted in this state to be acceptable, the instructor must be licensed by a state or country with equivalent license standards.

(4) Supervision of training. Clinical training in this state must be conducted under the general supervision of the

instructor's sponsoring physician. During any given clinic period, the acupuncture instructor may not supervise more than four students. The number of students present during an observation session should be limited according to the judgment of the instructor. Supervision by the instructor during clinical training must be direct: Each diagnosis and treatment must be done with the knowledge and concurrence of the instructor. During at least the first 100 treatments, the instructor must be in the room during treatment. Thereafter, the instructor must at least be in the facility, available for consultation and assistance. An osteopathic physician may only supervise two acupuncture assistance instructors per clinical instruction period.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 91-20-120 (Order 199B), § 246-855-030, filed 9/30/91, effective 10/31/91; WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-030, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57A.020. WSR 83-16-024 (Order PL 440), § 308-138B-105, filed 7/27/83.]

**WAC 246-855-040 Osteopathic acupuncture physicians' assistant's examination.** (1) Applicants for registration who have not been issued a license or certificate to practice acupuncture from the governments listed in RCW 18.57A.070, or from a country or state with equivalent standards of practice determined by the board, must pass the Washington acupuncture examination.

(2) A written and practical examination in English shall be given twice yearly for qualified applicants at a time and place determined by the board and shall examine the applicants' knowledge of anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, biochemistry, pathology, hygiene and acupuncture.

(3) An applicant must be approved by the board at least forty-five days in advance of the scheduled examination date to be eligible to take the written portion of the examination. The applicant shall provide his or her own needles and other equipment necessary for demonstrating the applicant's skill and proficiency in acupuncture.

(4) An applicant must have successfully completed the written portion of the examination prior to being eligible for the practical examination.

(5) The passing score for the examination is a converted score of seventy-five.

(6) Applicants requesting to retake either the written or practical portion of the examination shall submit the request for reexamination at least forty-five days in advance of the scheduled examination date.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-040, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005(2), 18.57A.020 and 18.130.050(1). WSR 88-21-081 (Order PM 780), § 308-138B-110, filed 10/19/88. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005 and 18.57A.020. WSR 82-17-005 (Order PL 402), § 308-138B-110, filed 8/5/82. Formerly WAC 308-138-110.]

**WAC 246-855-050 Investigation.** An applicant for an authorization to perform acupuncture shall, as part of his or her application, furnish written consent to an investigation of his or her personal background, professional training and experience by the board or any person acting on its behalf.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-050, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005 and 18.57A.020. WSR 82-17-005 (Order PL 402), § 308-138B-130, filed 8/5/82. Formerly WAC 308-138-130.]

**WAC 246-855-060 English fluency.** Each applicant must demonstrate sufficient fluency in reading, speaking and understanding the English language to enable the applicant to communicate with supervising physicians and patients concerning health care problems and treatment.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-060, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005 and 18.57A.020. WSR 82-17-005 (Order PL 402), § 308-138B-140, filed 8/5/82. Formerly WAC 308-138-140.]

**WAC 246-855-070 Supervising physicians' knowledge of acupuncture.** Osteopathic physicians applying for authorization to utilize the services of an osteopathic physician's acupuncture assistant shall demonstrate to the board that the osteopathic physician possesses sufficient understanding of the application of acupuncture treatment, its contraindications and hazards so as to adequately supervise the practice of acupuncture.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-070, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005 and 18.57A.020. WSR 82-17-005 (Order PL 402), § 308-138B-150, filed 8/5/82. Formerly WAC 308-138-150.]

**WAC 246-855-080 Utilization.** (1) Persons authorized as osteopathic physicians' acupuncture assistants shall be restricted in their activities to only those procedures which a duly licensed, supervising osteopathic physician may request them to do. Under no circumstances may an osteopathic physician's acupuncture assistant perform any diagnosis of patients or recommend or prescribe any forms of treatment or medication.

(2) An acupuncture assistant shall treat patients only under the direct supervision of a physician who is present on the same premises where the treatment is to be given.

(3) An osteopathic physician shall not employ or supervise more than one acupuncture assistant.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-080, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005 and 18.57A.020. WSR 82-17-005 (Order PL 402), § 308-138B-160, filed 8/5/82. Formerly WAC 308-138-160.]

**WAC 246-855-090 Prohibited techniques and tests.** No osteopathic physician's acupuncture assistant may prescribe, order, or treat by any of the following means, modalities, or techniques:

- (1) Diathermy treatments
- (2) Ultrasound or sonopuncture treatments
- (3) Infrared treatments
- (4) Electromuscular stimulation for the purpose of stimulating muscle contraction
- (5) X-rays
- (6) Laboratory tests
- (7) Laser puncture
- (8) Dietary therapy
- (9) Manipulative therapies
- (10) Point injection therapy (aqua puncture)
- (11) Herbal remedies.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-090, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57A.020. WSR 87-20-099 (Order PM 671), § 308-138B-170, filed 10/7/87. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005, 18.57A.020 and 18.57A.070. WSR 84-05-011 (Order PL 457), § 308-138B-170, filed 2/7/84. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57A.020. WSR 83-16-024 (Order PL

(2/13/98)

440), § 308-138B-170, filed 7/27/83. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005 and 18.57A.020. WSR 82-17-005 (Order PL 402), § 308-138B-170, filed 8/5/82. Formerly WAC 308-138-170.]

**WAC 246-855-100 AIDS education and training.** Applicants must complete seven clock hours of AIDS education as required in chapter 246-12 WAC, Part 8.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.280. WSR 98-05-060, § 246-855-100, filed 2/13/98, effective 3/16/98. Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 91-20-120 (Order 199B), § 246-855-100, filed 9/30/91, effective 10/31/91; WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-100, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: 1988 c 206 § 604. WSR 88-23-124 (Order PM 801), § 308-138B-180, filed 11/23/88.]

**WAC 246-855-110 Application for registration.** Effective January 1, 1989, persons applying for registration shall submit, in addition to the other requirements, evidence to show compliance with the education requirements of WAC 246-855-100.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.57.005. WSR 91-20-120 (Order 199B), § 246-855-110, filed 9/30/91, effective 10/31/91; WSR 90-24-055 (Order 100B), recodified as § 246-855-110, filed 12/3/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: 1988 c 206 § 604. WSR 88-23-124 (Order PM 801), § 308-138B-190, filed 11/23/88.]