



ACUPUNCTURE ASSOCIATION  
of COLORADO

## ACUPUNCTURE IN COLORADO

### ***A COST-EFFECTIVE, NON-PHARMACOLOGICAL APPROACH TO PAIN MANAGEMENT***

Acupuncture is one of the first lines of treatment for pain and discomfort associated with a variety of diseases and conditions, including:

- Chemotherapy-induced and postoperative nausea and vomiting
- Headaches, including tension headaches and migraines
- Respiratory disorders, such as allergic rhinitis
- Low back pain
- Neck pain
- Joint pain
- Osteoarthritis
- Labor pain
- Menstrual cramps
- Dental pain.

### ***A MAJOR COMPONENT IN ADDRESSING COLORADO'S OPIOID CRISIS***

In response to the current public health crisis of opioid abuse, overdose and death, acupuncture is an important evidence-informed, non-pharmacological approach. Acupuncture has a clinically relevant effect on chronic pain that persists over time and is a proven treatment for addressing withdrawal symptoms.

### ***AN ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFIT***

Recognized as an integral part of the complementary and integrative healthcare system, Colorado's Benchmark Plan has been updated to include acupuncture services as an Essential Health Benefit (EHB) beginning in 2023 for all Affordable Care Act (ACA) exchange plans.

### ***PATIENT SAFETY AND CARE***

Education, Training, Credentialing and Licensure Requirements are critical for the safety of patients and the public. Colorado's Acupuncture Practice Act makes it possible to determine those fully-trained and licensed professionals by looking for the credentials "L.Ac." or "Licensed Acupuncturist". Colorado requires that, to become an L.Ac., an individual must pass an exam conducted by NCCAOM (accredited by the National Commission for Certification Agencies), and strict training standards are a prerequisite to sit for the exams.

### ***SUPPORTERS OF HB22-1263 – "Concerning the Continuation of Licensing Requirements for Acupuncturists."***

HB22-1263 is supported by the Acupuncture Association of Colorado, the Colorado Medical Society and the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture.

***FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***  
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