

Safe Practice Guidelines

A document setting out the clinical, hygiene, consent, and risk-management standards expected of members.

1. Purpose

These guidelines set out baseline standards for safe, hygienic, proportionate, and professionally accountable care in acupuncture and related TCM modalities.

2. Core standard

Members shall practise within the limits of training, competence, and insurance cover, and maintain an environment suitable for safe treatment delivery.

- Use only techniques for which the practitioner has appropriate training.
- Maintain a clean, orderly treatment environment.
- Communicate clearly before, during, and after treatment.

3. Hygiene and infection prevention

Needles must be sterile, single-use, and disposed of safely. Equipment that comes into contact with skin should be cleaned or disinfected appropriately.

4. Assessment and consent

Before treatment, practitioners should take an appropriate history, assess suitability, explain the intended treatment, and obtain informed, voluntary, and ongoing consent.

5. Clinical judgement, referral, and emergencies

Members must recognise contraindications, modify care where needed, and refer appropriately when a patient presentation falls outside safe scope or requires medical assessment.

Practitioners should be prepared for foreseeable adverse reactions and maintain basic emergency procedures suitable to their setting.