

Scope of Practice

A document defining the professional boundaries, clinical positioning, and public-facing responsibilities of members of the Register.

1. Purpose

This Scope of Practice explains the role and limits of practice expected of members of the Irish Acupuncture Register.

Its purpose is to support public protection, practitioner clarity, and a proportionate understanding of what members may reasonably undertake within acupuncture and TCM.

2. General principle

Members shall practise only within the limits of their education, training, competence, and insurance cover.

Scope is not just a list of techniques; it also includes judgement, communication, referral behaviour, and professional honesty.

3. What practice may include

Depending on training and competence, practice may include traditional assessment, acupuncture needling, moxibustion, cupping, electroacupuncture, and related TCM-informed methods.

- Needling and adjunctive techniques where trained
- Lifestyle and self-care advice within competence
- Use of methods that are clinically justifiable and professionally explainable

4. What practice does not include

Membership of the IAR does not authorise a practitioner to misrepresent themselves, work beyond safe competence, or present complementary care as a replacement for emergency or time-critical treatment.

5. Referral and communication

Members must recognise when a patient requires referral, further investigation, or care from another healthcare professional. Public-facing communication must be accurate and not exaggerated.