

Can other health care practitioners practice acupuncture?

Licensed physicians, dentists and veterinarians may be registered or certified to practice acupuncture in Maryland. However, their requirements and application processes are different from those required for licensed acupuncturists.

Can I find out if there are any complaints against my acupuncturist?

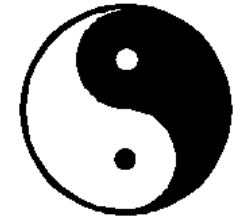
The Board does not give out information about complaints, since not all complaints are valid and a licensee's reputation could be harmed. However, the Board reviews all complaints received to determine whether the Maryland Acupuncture Practice Act has been violated.

If the Board decides that no violation has occurred or that the violation is minor and warrants a letter of education, the complaint will not be made public. However, if the Board decides

If you wish to file a complaint regarding fee disputes, please contact the **Maryland Consumer Protection Division** at 410-576-6550.

Unit 252
MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE
4201 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21215

ACUPUNCTURE



**Maryland
Board of Acupuncture
4201 Patterson Avenue
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Telephone:
410-764-4766
1-800-530-2481
Fax:
410-358-7258
Website:
[www.dhmh.state.md.us/
bacc](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bacc)**

The Board of Acupuncture is an agency under the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that credentials and licenses acupuncturists. The Board issues licenses to qualified acupuncturists, regulates the profession, investigates complaints that may take disciplinary action if an acupuncturist is found guilty in violation of the Maryland Acupuncture Practice Act.

Acupuncture

What is acupuncture?

Acupuncture is a medicine that originated in China over 2,000 years ago. Although a young profession in the United States, it is growing very popular in this country as an alternative medicine and a compliment to Western medicine.

Acupuncture harmonizes and balances Qi, which is the vital energy or life force that runs through your body. Qi travels through pathways or channels in your body. When Qi is blocked and causes a lack of smooth flow or balance, symptoms of pain or disease may result. Acupuncture works to release this energy and restore the balance and flow of Qi within your body.

Acupuncture reduces pain by unblocking the Qi and restoring balance to the body and it has helped many patients who suffer with painful conditions such as: arthritis, migraine headaches, allergies, back pain, premenstrual syndrome, addictions, depression, sleep disorders and many other maladies. It is also a useful method to maintain health and vitality.

What should I expect when I visit an acupuncturist?

Your first visit usually involves a lengthy examination that includes asking many questions and taking a complete history. The acupuncturist will be examining you by: **Looking** (which may include viewing skin colors, dryness of skin or hair, posture, redness of eyes, rashes, color of tongue etc.), **Listening** to voice and smell of bodily odors, and **Palpation** of the body which includes feeling of pulses. You may or may not receive an acupuncture treatment during your initial consultation.

The acupuncture needles are sterile and disposable and are very fine and are virtually painless. Herbal remedies, massage, electrical stimulation and moxibustion (an herb that is lighted and burned over an acupuncture point to initiate a sensation of warmth) may also be used during a treatment.

After your first visit, the acupuncturist will recommend a treatment plan and may ask you to return once or twice a week for six to ten treatments depending on your needs. Once stabilized, you may be asked to return every three to four weeks for treatment. A person in good health may return for health maintenance and preventive care.

In Maryland, you do not require a physician's consult before seeking acupuncture treatment. If you are in the care of a physician you should continue that care, as you and your physician feel necessary. You should also continue taking any physician prescribed medications.

What is the role of the Board?

The Maryland Acupuncture Board is a State agency that licenses and regulates acupuncturists. **Its mission is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Maryland.** It is an entity that you, the consumer, may call to check if an acupuncturist is licensed and in good standing. It is also the agency you should contact if you wish to file a complaint against an acupuncturist. or have any questions regarding professional or ethical standards.

The professional and ethical standards are outlined in the Maryland Acupuncture Practice Act and the Board's regulations. While striving to ensure that the highest quality of acupuncture treatment is provided to the citizens of Maryland, the Board also handles complaints concerning unprofessional or sexual misconduct, fraud and standards of care. If an acupuncturist is found guilty of improper behavior, the Board may issue a reprimand, suspend or revoke a license, or may administer some other form of discipline.

If you have a complaint, contact the Board at 410-764-4766 or 1-800-530-2481, to request a complaint form. Following review of your written complaint, an investigator may wish to interview you. or an attorney from the Maryland State Attorney General's Office may interview you. You may also be asked to attend a hearing and explain your complaint to members of the Board or an Administrative Law Judge.