



MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE

October 2023 Needle News

The mission of the Maryland Board of Acupuncture is the protection of the public. This mission is fulfilled through the licensure and regulation of Acupuncturists; ensuring that those seeking licensure and those continuing to practice acupuncture and East Asian medicine in Maryland meet State standards; including complaint investigation when a violation of the law is alleged.

WELCOME to the Fall 2023 Renewal Season

The Fall 2023 Renewal Season begins today! Practitioners with November 30, 2023 expiration dates have until Sunday, December 31, 2023 to renew their license. The Fall season is marked by multiple opportunities to celebrate with family and friends. In all the merrymaking, the holidays easily become distractions and for good reason. Consider beating the holiday rush and renewing your license by October 31st. License renewal is an online process that can be completed at your convenience. P-L-E-A-S-E note that no paper applications, checks or money orders are being accepted The renewal fee structure and the corresponding deadlines are as follows:

- \$551 for the standard renewal period October 1 - November 30, 2023.
- \$651 for the late renewal, grace period December 1 - 30, 2023

The Board looks forward to receiving your online application and reviewing all the informative courses that Practitioners have completed over the last two (2) years - <https://mdbnc.health.maryland.gov/acupt/logon.aspx>

*REMEMBER - At present the Board is not issuing renewal licenses. To obtain proof of renewal visit the Board's website and click on the [Verify A License](#) option in the vertical menu on the left. The search can be completed by license number or last name. This page can be printed by right clicking on your mouse and selecting the print menu option or clicking on the three dots in the upper right corner and selecting the print option.



Welcome New Team Members To The Board

I am excited to introduce to you the Board's new Deputy Director/Licensing Administrator Stephanie Coley. She has seven years of Health Boards & Commissions experience and comes to us from the Board of Psychological Examiners. Stephanie transitioned to the Board in mid-July and hit the ground running.

I am excited to share that all Board professional and consumer positions are now filled. Peter Marinakis' term ended at the end of fiscal 23 after serving two terms. Peter's enthusiasm, commitment and expertise will be missed. I am greatly grateful for the opportunity to serve with him. Please help me thank Peter for his service and welcome the newly appointed members:

- Dr. Christian Van Norman
- Dr. Sharon Jennings-Rojas

- While the Board doesn't have any current vacancies, there will be vacancies in the future. As well, there are 20 other opportunities to serve on a Health Professions Board or Commission. Visit the [Governor's Appointments Office](#) page to learn more.

Renewal

The Board conducts licensing audits during each renewal season. Practitioners that are randomly selected to participate in the audit **MUST** also submit the actual CEU certificates to the Board with their renewal application, no matter the submission date. Practitioners chosen to participate in the license renewal audit are notified of their selection by email and mail.

As of May 30, 2021 the law requires all health care practitioners in Maryland to attest that they have completed an implicit bias training program on their license renewal application. If you have not already done so, visit the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Minority Health & Health Disparities webpage for course options



Did you know that Practitioners are required to ensure that the Board has their most up-to-date information? Did you know that not complying with this requirement will incur a fine? License renewal season is an opportunity to ensure that you are in compliance. When you renew, be sure to share your updated personal and professional information with the Board. The distinction between personal and professional is important because the Board responds to inquiries with professional information.

Did you know that Acupuncturists are eligible to become Medicaid providers? I inquired about the number of Acupuncture Medicaid providers and there are less than 50. If you are interested in becoming a Medicaid provider, please use the following links to learn more.

<https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/provider/Pages/epreresources.aspx>

Instructions -

<https://health.maryland.gov/mmcp/SiteAssets/pages/Provider-Information/Instructions%20for%20Updating%20a%20Professional%20License%20April%202020.pdf>

MAS

Practitioners in Maryland have the benefit of a *local*, professional society. [The Maryland Acupuncture Society](#) is Maryland Practitioners' resource for professional advocacy, training and support. Please visit the website to learn more about membership and resources.

Mental Health Resource

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and MedChi jointly sponsor a webinar series, the BHA/MedChi Behavioral Health Webinar Series: Helping the Helpers and Those They Serve. These webinars are for Maryland's behavioral health and medical health care workers of all disciplines, whether working in community or hospital settings. The webinars are designed to enhance both healthcare worker self-care and the resulting care they provide. It is understood that healthcare workers too face numerous stressors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and issues of socio-economic justice that can potentially impact care delivery. In some cases, CMEs and participant certificates will be available at no cost, which also *may* qualify as CEUs for some disciplines. Webinars are on the second Thursday of the month from 5-6pm. For questions, or if you are interested in delivering a presentation, being a moderator, or have self-care topics/presenters to suggest, contact Steve Whitefield at steven.whitefield@maryland.gov.

National Auricular Detoxification Association

The Annual NADA conference convened on June 22 - 23, 2023 at Bowie State University. The Board staff had the opportunity to attend to learn more about the NADA activities and history. One of the many presentations was made by the National Acupuncture Lead for the Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Julie Olson shared about the VHA's intention to expand the role of non-western medicine in the care of veterans. There was an additional exciting announcement about a new textbook that is the result of years of research about positive outcomes achieved through auricular detoxification. Will information about the book and some conference pictures in next month's news blast.

Community Impact

September 28, 2023 marks the inaugural anniversary of President Biden's White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health (CHNH). Since 2022 the conference has released a [National Strategy](#), and announced over [\\$8 billion of external commitments](#) to achieve the overarching goal of ending hunger and reducing diet-related disease by 2030. To view the



details for yourself and learn how the CHNH has and can impact your practice please visit the [website](#).

Legislative Impact

Are you ready to participate in shaping the direction of the practice? The next Maryland legislative session starts in January 2024. Take the time to get to know your State legislators and the committee assignments that impact the practice. You may not be able to attend one session held at the [MD General Assembly](#) but you can call and email legislators about the issues that are important to you. Acupuncturists are constituents too!

THANK YOU for your contribution to the healthcare continuum and helping Maryland residents integrate East Asian medicine into their health goals.

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