

## **Interim Policy Statement**

### **Tennessee Board Of Medical Examiners' Advisory Committee for Acupuncture**

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#### **Out of Practice Policy**

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The Board of Medical Examiners' Advisory Committee for Acupuncture recognizes that acupuncture and acupuncture detoxification specialist (ADS) licensees may leave their practice voluntarily or involuntarily. Acupuncturists and ADSs may do so with the intent to return to practice at a later date or may intend to retire after a long career. Whatever the cause of their departure, acupuncturists and ADSs who have left practice and later choose to return must be prepared to demonstrate that they have maintained their skills and knowledge and that they may safely and effectively resume providing care.

Acupuncturists whom have been out of practice for two (2) years or more shall:

- (a) Submit proof of completion of fifteen (15) NCCAOM approved continuing education hours per year out of practice beyond the two (2) year grace period.
- (b) Appear before the Committee, if requested, to better determine which practice areas an individual should focus on when completing the required continuing education hours.

ADS practitioners are required to be engaged in current practice, which is defined as practicing within the preceding six (6) months, to maintain their licensure status.

ADS practitioners who have been out of practice for more than six (6) months but less than two (2) years shall retake and submit to the Committee proof of successful completion of both a course in the clean needling technique and a cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) course.

ADSs whom have been out of practice for two (2) years or more shall retake and submit to the Committee proof of successful completion of a board-approved training program in auricular detoxification acupuncture that meets or exceeds standards of training set by the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association, as was required for their initial ADS certification.

**Adopted by the Advisory Committee for Acupuncture on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.**

**Adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.**