

Organisation response to the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia public consultation on the revised Guidelines on infection prevention and control for acupuncture and related practices

Response from Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association

(Note: All responses have been reproduced as provided and have not been edited or otherwise altered.)

Question One: Are there any specific issues or effects from applying the current guidelines? If so, what are they?

Response provided to the question: Are there any specific issues or effects from applying the current guidelines? If so, what are they?

No, though needing to purchase the AS/NZ standards rather than having them freely available may be an issue for some practitioners. Are these standards available in other languages, especially Mandarin or Cantonese? As infection and prevention control are a public risk issue having the information in other languages may be more effective for understanding and implementation.

Question Two: Is the content and structure of the draft revised guidelines helpful, clear, and relevant?

Response provided to the question: Is the content and structure of the draft revised guidelines helpful, clear and relevant?

Yes, content and structure are clear and helpful, though the AS/NZ 4187:2014 was amended in 2019. When I accessed the Standards Store to purchase these standards, no current standard was available for purchase only the superseded versions were available.

Question Three: Is the level of detail too much, too little, or about right?

Response provided to the question: Is the level of detail too much, too little, or about right?

These guidelines contain the necessary details

Question Four: Is there anything missing that needs to be added to the draft revised CMBA guidelines, if so please provide details?

Response provided to the question: Is there anything missing that needs to be added to the draft revised guidelines, if so please provide details?

None apparent

Question Five: Taken as a whole, are the draft revised CMBA guidelines practical to implement and sufficient for safe practice of acupuncture?

Response provided to the question: Taken as a whole, are the draft revised CMBA guidelines practical to implement and sufficient for safe practice of acupuncture?

Yes

Question Six: Do you support a review period for the CMBA Guidelines of at least every five years, noting that the period is influenced by when the Australian guidelines are updated?

Do you support a review period for the CMBA Guidelines of at least every five years, noting that the period is influenced by when the Australian guidelines are updated?

Yes, synchronising the CMBA guidelines review with the Australian guidelines seems most practical and efficient

Question Seven: Do you have any comments about how the Board might launch the CMBA guidelines to make sure that registered practitioners understand their obligations?

Response provided to the question: Do you have any comments about how the Board might launch the CMBA guidelines to make sure that registered practitioners understand their obligations?

AACMA would be very pleased to host a seminar on these guidelines presented by a CMBA representative. In this way, our members would not only be well informed but there would be the added incentive and attraction of CPD points for professional issues. If a recording was made of such a presentation, AACMA would make it available and promote it as a resource through our member portal for all our members to access at any time. Perhaps the other associations would do the same if approached.

Question Eight: Do you have any other comments?

Response provided to the question: Do you have any other comments?

The addition of the list on dealing with contagious diseases is timely, necessary and useful