COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE COMMITTEE ON ACUPUNCTURE

POLICY 2021-01

COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF ACCREDITED ACUPUNCTURE SCHOOLS December 9, 2021

The Committee on Acupuncture (Committee) within the Board of Registration in Medicine (Board) hereby adopts this policy to clarify whether an acupuncture school is a Committee approved acupuncture school, such that its graduates meet the licensure requirement in G.L. c. 112, § 152 that applicants for acupuncture licensure be graduates of a committee approved course of academic training in acupuncture and complete a committee approved acupuncture internship. *See also*, 243 CMR 5.04.

In issuing this policy, the Committee recognizes the following provisions in its regulations:

• Committee regulations at 243 CMR 5.01 define "acupuncture school" as any legally chartered school which grants diplomas, certificates or graduate degrees in acupuncture, or any department or program within a college or university that grants diplomas, certificates or graduate degrees in acupuncture.

• Committee regulations at 243 CMR 5.04(l)(a) further provide that the Committee may approve an acupuncture school if the school is accredited by the American College of Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine[[1]](#footnote-1) (ACAHM) or with a federally approved accrediting agency that the Committee deems an appropriate agency for accrediting graduate schools in acupuncture, or has candidacy status with ACAHM, or with a federally approved accrediting agency that the Committee deems an appropriate agency for granting candidacy status to graduate schools in acupuncture.

The Committee also recognizes that ACAHM currently refers to schools in candidacy status as holding "pre-accreditation status."

Through this policy, the Committee approves all entities that:

(1) meet the definition of "acupuncture school," and

(2) hold either accreditation status or pre-accreditation status with ACAHM.

Entities that meet these criteria need not specifically apply to the Committee for approval but are deemed approved on the basis of documentation of ACAHM status. Entities that do not meet these criteria may apply to the Committee for approval and are not deemed to be approved until the Committee specifically votes to approve them.

The Committee may, at any time, review an acupuncture school that has been approved under this policy. If the Committee determines that, despite having been accredited by ACAHM or holding pre-accreditation status with ACAHM, the school does not adequately prepare graduates for acupuncture practice, the Committee may withdraw approval. Prior to withdrawing such approval, the Committee shall provide the school with written notice as to the Committee's concerns and shall provide the school with an opportunity to be heard by the Committee.

Applicants who are graduates of these schools on a date on or after the school held ACAHM accreditation or pre-accreditation status meet the requirement of being graduates of a committee approved course of academic training in acupuncture and complete a committee approved acupuncture internship, provided that the Committee has not withdrawn approval prior to the graduation date.

1. On August 9, 2021, the Commissioners unanimously voted to change the name of ACAOM to the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM), effective September 8, 2021. It is the policy of the COA to recognize new names of national organizations identified in its regulations… *See COA Policy 2021-02, Policy on Discontinuance of Use of the Term “Oriental.”* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)