Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Committee on Acupuncture

POLICY STATEMENT 2022-01

(Adopted December 8, 2022)

**POLICY ON THREAD EMBEDDING**

The Committee on Acupuncture of the Board of Registration in Medicine determines that thread embedding is within the scope of “the practice of acupuncture,” as it is defined in our regulations at 243 CMR 5.01(2).

Thread embedding, or threading, is the insertion of a needle through the skin at certain points on the body, in order to improve bodily function. Threading is within the scope of practice of acupuncture whether it is polydioxanone (PDO), poly-L-Lactic acid (PLLA) or polycaprolactone (PCL) thread or any other type of absorbable suture. Threading is within the scope of practice of acupuncture whether it is performed with an acupuncture needle, another other type of needle or a blunt-tipped cannula.

In order to perform this procedure safely and competently, an acupuncturist must have appropriate education and training in thread embedding. Thread embedding must be performed within the acupuncturist’s standard of care.

The Committee recognizes that other health care professions may determine thread embedding is within their profession’s scope of practice. Thread embedding is not necessarily exclusively within the scope of practice of acupuncture.