COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE

COMMITTEE ON ACUPUNCTURE

POLICY 2025-01

ETHICS IN ACUPUNCTURE PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

February 13, 2025

For the past year, the Committee on Acupuncture has worked on developing a statewide code of ethics for Massachusetts acupuncturists. The Committee envisions the Code as a concise statement of the basic principles of integrity, compassion and professionalism that are fundamental to the practice of acupuncture. On September 19, 2024, the COA adopted a Code of Ethics. This Code of Ethics states that all acupuncture practitioners in this state are dedicated to responsible and ethical practice.

**The Code Focuses on Ethical Practice Throughout an Acupuncturist’s Career.**

Beginning July 1, 2025, every Massachusetts acupuncture applicant and licensee will review the Code of Ethics standards as a condition of licensure. The Code of Ethics will be distributed as part of the initial, renewal and temporary acupuncture licensing application materials. All licensees and applicants will sign an acknowledgement of receipt of the Code of Ethics as part of their application for licensure.

**Two CAE Credits Will Be Dedicated to the Subject of Ethical Practice.**

Also beginning July 1, 2025, the Massachusetts Committee on Acupuncture will require each renewing licensee to complete two Continuing Acupuncture Education (CAE) credits in ethics. The Committee is designating two credits out of the 30 CAE credits required for renewal are dedicated to the subject of ethics in acupuncture practice. This will not add to the acupuncturist’s 30 continuing education credits requirement; it targets the subject matter of two credits as ethical practice.

The Committee will grant one CAE credit in Ethics to every licensee who reads, discusses and implements the Code of Ethics. Renewing licensees may choose to take as many ethics courses as they wish; two credits is the minimum requirement.

**Committee on Acupuncture: A Code of Ethics:**

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/committee-on-acupuncture-a-code-of-ethics>