

Proposed Regulations

18 VAC 85-110-10 et seq. Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Acupuncturists

18 VAC 85-110-100. General requirements.

Prior to performing acupuncture, a licensed acupuncturist shall obtain written documentation that the patient has received a diagnostic examination within the past six months by a licensed doctor of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic, or podiatry acting within the scope of his practice or shall provide to the patient a written recommendation for such a diagnostic examination on a form specified by the board and signed by the patient. One copy of the signed form shall be maintained in the patient's chart and another copy provided to the patient.

Recommendation for a Diagnostic Examination

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO AFFIRM THAT _____
(NAME OF PATIENT) HAS BEEN ADVISED BY _____
(NAME OF LICENSED ACUPUNCTURIST), TO CONSULT A PHYSICIAN
REGARDING THE CONDITION FOR WHICH ACUPUNCTURE
TREATMENT IS BEING SOUGHT.

(Signature of patient)

(Date)

(Signature of acupuncturist)

(Date)

The Code of Virginia requires that prior to performing acupuncture, a licensed acupuncturist shall either "(i) obtain written documentation that the patient had received a diagnostic examination from a licensed practitioner of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic or podiatry with regard to the ailment or condition to be treated or (ii) provide to the patient a written recommendation for such a diagnostic examination." (§54.1-2956.9 of the Code of Virginia)

Instructions to Licensed Acupuncturist:

The law requires the Board of Medicine to adopt a standard form to be used by licensed acupuncturists in recommending a diagnostic examination. **Therefore, this form must be given to any patient seeking acupuncture treatment from whom the acupuncturist has not obtained written documentation of a diagnostic examination from a licensed practitioner of medicine, osteopathy, chiropractic or podiatry for the ailment or condition being treated.**

- The form must be in duplicate with one copy to be given to the patient and one copy kept on file with the patient's records.
- The form must be signed and dated by both the patient and the licensed acupuncturist.

- If the patient does not understand English, the licensed acupuncturist must either provide the form in the language of the patient or ensure that it has been translated for the patient in his language.