

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
TITLE 16. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL REGULATIONS
Division 13.7. ACUPUNCTURE BOARD

PROPOSED REGULATORY LANGUAGE

Hand Hygiene Requirements

Legend:	Added text is indicated with an <u>underline</u> . Omitted text is indicated by (* * * *) Deleted text is indicated by strikeout .
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Amend section 1399.451 of Division 13.7 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

§ 1399.451. Treatment Procedures.

In treating a patient, an acupuncturist shall adhere to the following ~~procedures~~:

(a) ~~The a~~ Acupuncturist's hands shall thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water (covering all surfaces of hands and fingers) for no less than 20 seconds~~be brush-scrubbed with soap and warm water~~ immediately before examining patients or handling acupuncture needles and other instruments, and between patients. If hands are not visibly soiled or contaminated, an alcohol-based hand rub, with an alcohol concentration of at least 60%, may be used as an alternative to soap and water. An alcohol-based hand rub shall be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

(b) All instruments shall be sterilized before and between uses in a manner that destroys all microorganisms. All needle trays that contain sterile needles shall also be sterile. Each time instruments are sterilized, the acupuncturist shall use a tape or strip indicator that shows that sterilization is complete.

(c) Acupuncture points, where needles are to be inserted, shall be cleaned with an appropriate antiseptic before insertion of the needle.

(d) In the event an acupuncture needle inserted in a patient breaks subcutaneously, the treating acupuncturist shall immediately consult a physician. An acupuncturist shall not sever or penetrate the tissues in order to excise such a needle.

(e) Any complication, including but not limited to, hematoma, peritonitis, or pneumothorax arising out of acupuncture treatment shall be referred immediately to a physician, dentist, or podiatrist, if appropriate, if immediate medical treatment is required.

(f) Acupuncture shall not be performed using hypodermic needles.

(g) All instruments to be discarded shall be disposed of safely.

(h) Needles shall be disposed of by placing them in a sealed, unbreakable container marked "Hazardous Waste" and disposed of in accordance with state and local law.

Note: Authority cited: Section 4933, Business and Professions Code.
Reference: Section 4955, Business and Professions Code.