Getting started as an acupuncturist



(L) Read time: 3 mins

Nau mai, haere mai, we're glad to have you on board. This quick guide has information specific to your profession to help you start working with us successfully, including where to get information, when you need it.







What treatment can be funded?

We'll fund treatment if it directly relates to your patient's recovery from an injury stated on an ACC45 form. Patients self-fund treatments outside of this, including for quality of life or general wellbeing. You should talk about this as part of informed consent.

Make sure they're covered

If your patient doesn't have a claim lodged, refer them to an appropriate healthcare provider. You can still do an initial assessment and treatment if needed. If accepted, cover starts from the date of accident, and you can invoice us. If not, the patient needs to pay.

Paying you for your services

You can bill us in two ways.
Either a fixed rate per
treatment or based on the
actual time you provided
treatment to a patient to the
closest five minutes. We can't
pay for writing clinical records
after the patient has left
the clinic.

acc.co.nz/invoicing-us

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Treatments we pay for

We'll fund these treatments for an ACC-covered injury:

- ✓ acupuncture
- ✓ electroacupuncture
- ✓ auricular acupuncture
- ✓ moxibustion
- ✓ cupping
- ✓ laser acupuncture
- ✓ gua-sha (scraping)
- ✓ tui-na (Chinese therapeutic massage)
- ✓ acupressure

Patients need to self-fund the following:

- ✓ liniments
- ✓ herbal plasters
- ✓ herbs and supplements
- ✓ ion-pumping cords
- ✓ time spent dispensing the above
- ✓ non-injury related treatment

More about treatment

From the first acupuncture session, you can provide up to 12 treatments in 12 weeks (within 52 weeks of the accident) without prior approval from us.

If you're treating using Traditional Chinese Medicine, you'll still need to document the Western medicine diagnosis by its Read Code.

acc.co.nz/read-codes

Acupuncture is the main treatment we pay for, but it's up to you to choose what funded treatment may be best for your patient's covered injury. In some cases, this might mean non-needle treatments like gua-sha or tui-nah will be appropriate. Whichever you choose, you'll need to show clinical reasoning.

Learn more

That's just a quick introduction to working with us as an acupuncturist, and there are plenty more resources to help you on our website.

acc.co.nz/health-providers

