

ACUPUNCTURE

- All facilities are to follow “**General Guidelines for all Personal Services Settings**”

Additional requirements:

- Needles used to pierce the skin are critical items. They must be supplied as pre-packaged, single-use, disposable and sterile. They are to be discarded immediately after use in an approved sharps container
- Any item used to manipulate a sterile needle prior to insertion must also be sterile
- Each individual needle must be used only on one site on the same client
- Reusable handles for seven-star or plum-blossom needles must be cleaned and then disinfected using a high-level disinfectant after each client use
- Sterile needles must not be placed in a non-sterile environment (e.g. cotton, foam, tray, etc.) before use. Needles should be removed from sealed packages in view of clients, just prior to insertion in the client
- Care must be taken to touch only the handle of the needle when removing from the packaging, particularly when the needles are bundled together. Any unused bundled needles must be discarded after each client
- Instruments such as tweezers coming in contact with the needle(s) after insertion in the client, must be cleaned and then high-level disinfected between clients
- Items used for cupping intact skin must be cleaned and then low-level disinfected between clients
- Acupuncture should not be performed on non-intact skin