
Overview

This standard concerns provision of optimal acupuncture treatment, and focuses on the treatment environment, equipment and materials, and the technical aspects of the treatment process. The latter includes a range of elements from positioning the client to giving advice following the treatment. Adherence to a code of safe practice, application of competent, safe and skilled technique and development of an informative and supportive therapeutic relationship are important aspects of this standard.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

SFHCHAc6

Provide the acupuncture treatment

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 ensure that the treatment environment is appropriate for the client and their needs
- P2 present a professional appearance and be prepared and fit to carry out the treatment
- P3 ensure that any equipment and materials, and the surrounding work area meet professional codes of practice, legal and organisational requirements
- P4 position the client for effective access and to minimise risk of injury to self and discomfort to the client
- P5 reassure the client and encourage them to relax and participate as appropriate to the treatment
- P6 carry out the treatment safely and in accordance with professional guidelines
- P7 make adjustments to the treatment to meet any changing needs
- P8 when required, explain the treatment as it is carried out
- P9 monitor the client throughout the treatment and respond effectively to any reactions to the treatment(s)
- P10 offer clear and accurate aftercare advice and support to the client
- P11 advise the client about any precautions they need to be aware of immediately following the treatment

SFHCHAc6

Provide the acupuncture treatment

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the professional standards and code of conduct for your discipline
- K2 the role of the professional (regulatory) body setting the rules and ethical standards of your discipline
- K3 the rules, ethical standards and codes of conduct of your profession and how they apply to your own practice
- K4 why it is important to keep your understanding of professional rules and codes of conduct up to date
- K5 how to balance your own responsibilities as a professional with any contractual or other requirements of any organisation within which you work
- K6 current relevant health and safety legislation and how it applies to your own work role
- K7 legislation relating to obtaining, storing and using information
- K8 legislation relating to supplying services
- K9 the importance of keeping your understanding of legislation up to date
- K10 how relevant legislation impacts on your work
- K11 the roles and functions of the principal agencies with whom you work
- K12 how to obtain information from the principal agencies with whom you may be working
- K13 why it is important to respect the rights of clients
- K14 the extent of your own remit as a practitioner and the limits of your responsibilities
- K15 how your own role relates to that of other professionals within the principal agencies
- K16 the organisational requirements and restrictions relating to the use of resources
- K17 the range of resources and options available to meet the client's needs
- K18 how to achieve effective communication through observation, sensitive questioning, listening and touch
- K19 how to adapt vocabulary, pace and tone of speaking to meet the needs of the client
- K20 what forms of verbal and non-verbal communication are available and how to use these positively
- K21 what signals can be used to check the understanding of the client and how to interpret them
- K22 how to position self and client to encourage communication
- K23 how to recognise and overcome barriers to communication
- K24 why it is important to encourage the client (and any companion(s)) to ask questions, seek advice and express any concerns
- K25 the nature of a professional relationship and how to develop it with clients
- K26 how to respond to conflicting advice which clients may receive from

SFHCHAc6

Provide the acupuncture treatment

- different practitioners
- K27 why it is important to reflect on your own practice and identify any development needs
- K28 how to evaluate the effectiveness of your own actions and learn from experience
- K29 the information available on effective healthcare and how to evaluate and use this information within your own practice
- K30 how the models and concepts in your area of practice have evolved and developed, how they change with time and the similarities and differences between different versions
- K31 how to develop links with other healthcare providers and the protocols for doing this
- K32 how to recognise the limits of your own knowledge and competence and the importance of not exceeding these
- K33 why it is important to acknowledge your own limitations and when there may be a need to refer the client on to other healthcare practitioners
- K34 the importance of recognising and maintaining the client's legal and ethical rights to confidentiality
- K35 how to balance the client's rights against your responsibility to others
- K36 what to take into account when passing on information about clients
- K37 what the procedures and requirements on confidentiality, security and transmission of information are for your organisation and for any other organisation that you may need to contact regarding a client
- K38 the ways in which confidentiality may be breached and how to prevent their occurrence
- K39 the different forms of consent and the circumstances in which these may apply
- K40 the guidance given by your professional body on consent and when written consent should be obtained
- K41 why it is important to ensure that clients have been given sufficient information to give or refuse consent
- K42 who holds responsibility for gaining consent and when this should be done
- K43 how consent may be obtained for clients who are unable to give the consent themselves and who has the right to give this consent
- K44 the policies on consent, including any specific requirements under contractual agreements for your organisation and any other organisation you may need to contact regarding a client
- K45 why it is important to protect client confidentiality
- K46 how to keep records in order to protect confidentiality and security of information
- K47 how to keep records so that an audit can be undertaken
- K48 how to record all the necessary information in a format suitable for further use
- K49 who has the right of access to information held on records

SFHCHAc6

Provide the acupuncture treatment

- K50 the audit cycle
- K51 why it is important to acknowledge and respect an individual's rights and dignity and ways of doing this
- K52 the nature of disability and your role and responsibilities in working with those who have disabilities
- K53 how an individual's abilities and disabilities may affect the nature and form of help and support and the manner in which you provide it
- K54 what circumstances may indicate a need for the presence of a third party
- K55 who may act as a companion for the client and how to interact with them
- K56 what your legal and ethical responsibilities are in relation to the client's health and safety
- K57 how to maintain your practice in line with health and safety legislation
- K58 how to be supportive to the client (and any companion(s)) whilst managing time effectively
- K59 how to obtain information on commonly encountered diseases and on medications and their side effects
- K60 how to recognise those occasions when acupuncture may be appropriate and/or may complement other healthcare which the client is receiving
- K61 how to recognise conditions for which acupuncture alone would be ill advised and for which the client should seek advice from other sources
- K62 the circumstances when you may choose not to accept a client or to cease treating a client:
 - K62.1 acupuncture is unlikely to succeed
 - K62.2 the client does not want acupuncture
 - K62.3 you do not wish to provide acupuncture
- K63 the circumstances when you must not accept a client:
 - K63.1 acupuncture is contra-indicated
 - K63.2 you do not have the requisite experience or expertise
 - K63.3 other healthcare options are needed as a matter of urgency
- K64 the range, purpose and limitations of different methods, which may be used for different clients with different needs
- K65 how to determine the most appropriate method(s) for different clients and their particular needs
- K66 how to tailor treatment appropriately for each individual
- K67 how to assess the appropriateness of self-care strategies for the client
- K68 relevant anatomy for safe needling practice
- K69 relevant microbiology for safe clinical practice
- K70 relevant physiology, pathology and pharmacology for any clinical healthcare practitioner
- K71 relevant anatomy, physiology, pathology and pharmacology in order to recognise circumstances:
 - K71.1 for which acupuncture is appropriate
 - K71.2 where acupuncture must be used with caution
 - K71.3 for which acupuncture is contra-indicated
 - K71.4 for which acupuncture is inappropriate

SFHCHAc6

Provide the acupuncture treatment

- K72 the role which the client (and others) may take, and may need to take, if the treatment or self-care is to be successful and how to explain and agree this with the client (and any companion)
- K73 the importance of encouraging the client to be as actively involved as possible and the relationship of this to the promotion of their health, effective functioning and wellbeing
- K74 the range of different ways in which the acupuncture can be altered to meet the needs of the client and the ways in which their needs may have changed

SFHCHAc6

Provide the acupuncture treatment

Additional Information

Links to other NOS

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

SFHCHAc6

Provide the acupuncture treatment

Developed by	Skills for Health
Version number	1
Date approved	June 2010
Indicative review date	June 2012
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	Skills for Health
Original URN	CHAc
Relevant occupations	Health, Public Services and Care; Medicine and Dentistry; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
Suite	Complementary Therapies and Healthcare
Key words	Acupuncture