

From: [EllisFamily](#)
To: [medboardconsultation](#)
Subject: Consultation - Endorsement for Acupuncture
Date: Tuesday, 17 April 2012 10:09:21 PM

To The Medical Board of Australia,

I wish to submit comments on the subject of Registered Medical Practitioners being endorsed to practise Acupuncture.

I would urge the Medical Board of Australia to seriously re-evaluate the criteria for endorsement for acupuncture. Registered Medical practitioners are of course highly trained in their fields of expertise, but as they take on an area in traditional Chinese Medicine which is relatively unknown, and not commonplace in Australian society, I believe more stringent regulation must be in place.

I am particularly concerned about the requirement in the Draft Registration Standard, that people without an approved qualification can be endorsed for acupuncture with evidence of ONLY 25 treatments over 24 months.

I have been receiving acupuncture and acupressure massage treatment from a Chinese Medicine Clinic for over 5 years on a fortnightly basis. I am confident in the procedure itself because the practitioners are highly trained and experienced in acupuncture techniques, and perform several treatments every day.

The requirement for 25 treatments over 24 months, even with relevant CPD, seems vastly insufficient. My fortnightly treatment alone would cover twice as much as the requirement!

I would strongly suggest that this minimum requirement be raised significantly to ensure the practitioner is regularly and frequently performing acupuncture procedures. I would like to know if any other endorsement requires such a minimal number of practical procedures.

It seems that Medical Practitioners may want to hold the title "acupuncturist" as just another title. This requirement of 25 treatments in 24 months suggests acupuncture as an add-on extra rather than as an integral part of a whole therapy regime.

25 "practices" in 24 months does not inspire faith in the expertise and experience of the provider, nor in the knowledge and understanding of the place of acupuncture as a part of the whole treatment. The general public would be horrified to think that this, together with an amount of theory, is all it takes to be registered as an acupuncturist.

Furthermore, if this is an example of the low value placed on practical experience and expertise required to use the title "acupuncturist", then I am not convinced that the standards for acupuncture in the "approved qualification" or "equivalent qualifications" would inspire my confidence either.

Thanks you for your consideration, and for the opportunity to comment.

Christine Ellis
Concerned member of the community.

