

CH Ac2 Prepare to assess the client for acupuncture

OVERVIEW

This standard focuses on the preparation required in order to perform an optimal assessment of a client seeking acupuncture. This includes ensuring that the environment, equipment and materials required for assessment are adequate. It also recognises the needs for clear and effective communication between the practitioner and the client. This standard does not include the technical elements or the professional skills required in the assessment process.

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

Version No 1

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

1. the professional standards and code of conduct for your discipline
2. the role of the professional (regulatory) body setting the rules and ethical standards of your discipline
3. the rules, ethical standards and codes of conduct of your profession and how they apply to your own practice
4. why it is important to keep your understanding of professional rules and codes of conduct up to date
5. how to balance your own responsibilities as a professional with any contractual or other requirements of any organisation within which you work
6. current relevant health and safety legislation and how it applies to your own work role
7. legislation relating to obtaining, storing and using information
8. legislation relating to supplying services
9. the importance of keeping your understanding of legislation up to date
10. how relevant legislation impacts on your work
11. the roles and functions of the principal agencies with whom you work
12. how to obtain information from the principal agencies with whom you may be working
13. why it is important to respect the rights of clients
14. the extent of your own remit as a practitioner and the limits of your responsibilities

15. how your own role relates to that of other professionals within the principal agencies
16. the organisational requirements and restrictions relating to the use of resources
17. the range of resources and options available to meet the client's needs
18. an in-depth understanding of how to achieve effective communication through observation, sensitive questioning, listening and touch
19. how to adapt vocabulary, pace and tone of speaking to meet the needs of the client
20. what forms of verbal and non-verbal communication are available and how to use these positively
21. what signals can be used to check the understanding of the client and how to interpret them
22. how to position self and client to encourage communication
23. how to recognise and overcome barriers to communication
24. why it is important to encourage the client (and any companion(s)) to ask questions, seek advice and express any concerns
25. the nature of a professional relationship and how to develop it with clients
26. how to respond to conflicting advice which clients may receive from different practitioners
27. why it is important to reflect on your own practice and identify any development needs
28. how to evaluate the effectiveness of your own actions and learn from experience
29. the information available on effective healthcare and how to evaluate and use this information within your own practice
30. 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
31. how to develop links with other healthcare providers and the protocols for doing this
32. how to recognise the limits of your own knowledge and competence and the importance of not exceeding these
33. 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
34. the importance of recognising and maintaining the client's legal and ethical rights to confidentiality
35. how to balance the client's rights against your responsibility to others
36. what to take into account when passing on information about clients
37. 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
38. the ways in which confidentiality may be breached and how to prevent their occurrence
39. the different forms of consent and the circumstances in which these may apply
40. the guidance given by your professional body on consent and when written consent should be obtained
41. why it is important to ensure that clients have been given sufficient information to give or refuse consent
42. who holds responsibility for gaining consent and when this should be done
43. how consent may be obtained for clients who are unable to give the consent themselves and who has the right to give this consent
44. 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
45. why it is important to protect client confidentiality
 46. how to keep records in order to protect confidentiality and security of information
 47. how to keep records so that an audit can be undertaken
 48. how to record all the necessary information in a format suitable for further use
 49. who has the right of access to information held on records
 50. the audit cycle
 51. why it is important to acknowledge and respect an individual's rights and dignity and ways of doing this
 52. the nature of disability and your role and responsibilities in working with those who have disabilities
 53. 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
 54. what circumstances may indicate a need for the presence of a third party
 55. who may act as a companion for the client and how to interact with them
 56. what your legal and ethical responsibilities are in relation to the client's health and safety
 57. how to maintain your practice in line with health and safety legislation
 58. how to be supportive to the client (and any companion(s)) whilst managing time effectively
 59. how to obtain information on commonly encountered diseases and on medications and their side effects
 60. how to recognise those occasions when acupuncture may be appropriate and/or may complement other healthcare which the client is receiving
 61. how to recognise conditions for which acupuncture alone would be ill advised and for which the client should seek advice from other sources
 62. the circumstances when you may choose not to accept a client or to cease treating a client:
 1. acupuncture is unlikely to succeed
 2. the client does not want acupuncture
 3. you do not wish to provide acupuncture
 63. the circumstances when you must not accept a client:
 1. acupuncture is contra-indicated
 2. you do not have the requisite experience or expertise
 3. other healthcare options are needed as a matter of urgency
 64. the range, purpose and limitations of different methods, which may be used for different clients with different needs
 65. how to determine the most appropriate method(s) for different clients and their particular needs
 66. how to tailor treatment appropriately for each individual
 67. how to assess the appropriateness of self-care strategies for the client
 68. relevant anatomy for safe needling practice
 69. relevant microbiology for safe clinical practice
 70. relevant physiology, pathology and pharmacology for any clinical healthcare practitioner
 71. relevant anatomy, physiology, pathology and pharmacology in order to recognise circumstances:
 1. for which acupuncture is appropriate
 2. where acupuncture must be used with caution
 3. for which acupuncture is contra-indicated
 4. for which acupuncture is inappropriate
 72. how to provide an appropriate assessment environment for the client and the

- importance of doing so
73. how to select, prepare and use a range of equipment and materials that are needed to assess the client
 74. how to prepare and present yourself correctly to carry out assessment
 75. why it is important to introduce everyone present and confirm their role within the assessment process
 76. how to clarify and confirm the client's (and any companion's) understanding of the assessment process
 77. how to interpret the client's initial approach and manner and identify their needs
 78. the amount of time which each assessment method is likely to take to establish the client's needs

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

1. ensure that the assessment environment is appropriate for the client and their needs
2. present a professional appearance and be prepared and fit to carry out the assessment
3. ensure that any equipment, materials, and surrounding work area are prepared and meet professional codes of practice, legal and organisational requirements
4. introduce the client and any companion to those present and confirm individual roles
5. communicate effectively, respectfully and in a manner which maintains client goodwill, trust and confidentiality
6. explain the nature, scope and duration of the assessment and any related interventions
7. encourage the client to ask questions and express any concerns about the assessment
8. confirm the consent of the client to the assessment
9. interact with any companion(s) of the client in ways that are appropriate to the needs of all parties involved

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health.

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

