CCAOM POSITION PAPERS ON CNT PROTOCOL

November 11, 2014

The Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM), which administers the national needle safety course known as the Clean Needle Technique (CNT) course, has developed two position papers concerning CNT protocol. The first paper relates to the preparation of the skin prior to acupuncture needle insertion. The second paper concerns the use of gloves during the practice of acupuncture.

The position paper on the use of gloves does not change the protocol as referenced in the current 6th edition of the CNT Manual. Based on consultation with the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, this protocol is consistent with OSHA’s safety standards. The position paper on preparation of the skin, however, reflects the most recent evidenced-based literature on this topic as well as consultation with the federal Centers for Disease Control, and therefore does represent a modification of the protocol in the current edition of the CNT Manual about this topic.

These position papers were developed as part of the Council’s forthcoming revision of the current Clean Needle Technique Manual for Acupuncturists—Guidelines and Standards for the Clean and Safe Clinical Practice of Acupuncture (6th ed. 2009), published by the National Acupuncture Foundation. The new 7th edition of the CNT Manual is expected to be released in 2015 and will incorporate the protocol discussed in both position papers.

The position papers were researched and authored by Jennifer Brett, ND, LAc, a CCAOM CNT instructor and chair of the CCAOM CNT Committee’s Subject Matter Expert Panel. Dr. Brett is also principal author for the forthcoming 7th edition of the CNT Manual. Both position papers were endorsed by the full Council at its plenary business meeting in San Antonio, TX on May 8, 2014, and again by the full Council with a minor change in terminology at its plenary business meeting in Oakland, CA on November 13, 2014.
The CCAOM is posting these position papers for AOM stakeholders and regulatory agencies as statements of evidenced-based best practice for the topics covered by each position paper. Please feel free to contact CNT Program Manager Paula Diamond at the CCAOM national office (410-464-6040) for any questions about these position papers.