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Letter of support for infertility coverage HF1658/SF1704

I am writing a letter of support for infertility treatment. As an acupuncturist there has been a long history of treating women for menstrual disorders including infertility and menopause, in some cultures using acupuncture as their primary choice of treatment. Acupuncture is not a covered service for the treatment of these conditions but some insurance providers have begun offering coverage. My colleagues and myself submitted a report to the Department of Commerce of the effectiveness of acupuncture as well as the use as part of cultures that rely on this traditional medicine. I am disappointed that acupuncture is not listed as a benefit for infertility in coverage for this bill. Please support an amendment to add acupuncture as a covered insurance benefit for infertility. There are cultures that would choose acupuncture as their treatment for infertility as their treatment of choice.

I am also writing about hope that that acupuncture for acute and chronic pain coverage bill will still be considered this session. Acupuncture has been in this country since the 1700's. Pain is the number one thing people seek care including during infertility treatment. It has the most impact on quality of life and the ability to perform work. People need access to non-drug care like acupuncture. People have been denied access to this type of care for way too long.

Concerns about cultural rebranding. Currently there is an effort to rebrand acupuncture and Chinese medicine. I have hope that having acupuncture coverage would at least give this traditional medicine a chance. Without the coverage, I believe there isn't a level playing field. Without recognizing that rebranding a traditional medicine is wrong, acupuncture and Chinese medicine will be decimated.

I have attached a rough draft of language I would like added to the licensure statute for acupuncturists regarding the rebranding.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bolash, LAc.

#### New Subdivision: Acupuncture point stimulation.

International languages that use acupuncture includes but is not limited to British, Chinese, French, Hmong, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese to English translation of acupuncture point stimulation includes but is not limited to "dry needling", "trigger point therapy", "intramuscular therapy", "auricular detox" and similar terms referring to the insertion of needles past the skin for pain management, provide symptom relief, maintaining or restoring health, or improving physiological function. References available for translation. WHO international standard terminologies on traditional Chinese medicine. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO. https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/352306/9789240042322-eng.pdf?sequence=1

### New Subdivision: Cultural Rebranding.

Acupuncture and Chinese medicine have been in practice in the United States since President George Washington established trade with China from the 1700's. While the Food and Drug administration's report on acupuncture from 1993 identifies that French physicians were the ones bringing in this traditional medicine as more newspapers become digitalized and searchable the presence of Chinese doctors practicing are showing up in United States newspapers as early as the 1700's. Historically acupuncture and the treatments and tools have been in practice as part of traditional medicine in many cultures including British, Chinese, French, Hmong, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese. Historically in our country acupuncture, cupping and the use of moxa were used during the civil war and were part of medical training in United States medical schools into the early 1900's as well as underground practitioners of traditional medicine. During the 1940's as the development of pain management was being explored, we were seeing the use of injections of medications for pain management. One researcher named Dr. Janet Travell, who later became president John Kennedy's physician experimented with injecting painful spots on the body known in traditional medicine as "ashi" points. She discovered that when injecting saline into these points that this reduced the pain. She then experimented without pain medication or saline and what she discovered was the dry needle would reduce the pain. She reported her results in 1947 and this was reported in United States newspapers across the country. "Ancient Chinese doctors gave their patients the needle, and two American scientists admitted today they probably had something there." Her work was originally from acupuncture documented in her files at Washington University and in subsequent newspapers admitted to studying acupuncture and Chinese medicine. The presence of this traditional medicine was often underground in our country and did not cause a problem until the rediscovery of acupuncture in the 1970's. Then we see the declaring of acupuncture as the practice of medicine across the United States and the world. We see many states and the federal government working together to stop the practice of acupuncture as part of a traditional medicine. We see the FDA declare the acupuncture needle investigational even though it had been in use as a medical device since the 1700's. We see the blocking of acupuncture needles through the United States customs that there became a black market for acupuncture needles. The regulation and practice of this traditional medicine took many years since the 1970's, some states still fail to regulate this traditional medicine, with many practitioners practicing underground until the establishment of licensure laws, in Minnesota it was 1995. Acupuncture and the tools of this traditional medicine have been used in Minnesota for many years. During the 1972 National Institute of Health conference on acupuncture the discussion of acupuncture point stimulation into what are known as trigger points was discussed and was a confirmed use as part of this traditional medicine. During the 1970's the use of acupuncture needles in trigger points and muscles were known and reported in medical journals. The acupuncture needle has been regulated since 1996 as a medical device for acupuncture. There are many cultures Chinese, Japanese, Hmong, and Vietnamese that have been using this tool and other tools of the traditional

medicine for many years and have probably invented every possible use for this cultural intellectual property. The acupuncture needle through the FDA, during the re-regulation, was requiring every known use possible and every medical condition possible which was a different standard for most regulated medical devices in the 1990's. Today there is a push to rebrand the acupuncture needle and practice methods of this traditional medicine along with the other tools. The recognition that this is a rebranding of a traditional medicine is important. Rebranding causes harm to society because it requires deception that there is a new use of the acupuncture needle, other tools and techniques of practice and that by simply renaming them makes it different. That the creating of cultural stereotypes implying that these cultures did not understand that there are muscles in the body or that practitioners do not understand anatomy and physiology is wrong. That because you do not understand Chinese, Japanese, Hmong, Korean and Vietnamese language and don't understand the historical basis or the practice of this traditional medicine that you are not practicing it by rebranding. It also causes harm to society because the intellectual property of traditional medicine is inferiorized and not given proper credit for the discovery while we continue to gain scientific knowledge of the mechanisms of action. In Minnesota we recognize traditional medicine has played a role for many cultures and that the rebranding of the medicine is harmful.

#### New subdivision Traditional medicine:

The World Health Organization recognizes the role that traditional medicine plays in healthcare. In accordance with national capacities, priorities, relevant legislation and circumstances, hereby make the following

Declaration: I. The knowledge of traditional medicine, treatments and practices should be respected, preserved, promoted and communicated widely and appropriately based on the circumstances in each country.

- II. Governments have a responsibility for the health of their people and should formulate national policies, regulations and standards, as part of comprehensive national health systems to ensure appropriate, safe and effective use of traditional medicine.
- III. Recognizing the progress of many governments to date in integrating traditional medicine into their national health systems, we call on those who have not yet done so to take action.
- IV. Traditional medicine should be further developed based on research and innovation in line with the "Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property" adopted at the Sixty-first World Health Assembly in resolution WHA61.21 in 2008. Governments, international organizations and other stakeholders should collaborate in implementing the global strategy and plan of action.
- V. Governments should establish systems for the qualification, accreditation or licensing of traditional medicine practitioners. Traditional medicine practitioners should upgrade their knowledge and skills based on national requirements.
- VI. The communication between conventional and traditional medicine providers should be strengthened and appropriate training programmes be established for health professionals, medical students and relevant researchers.

Documenting Traditional Medical Knowledge (wipo.int)

https://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/tk/en/resources/pdf/medical\_tk.pdf

The Beijing Declaration, Adopted by the WHO Congress on Traditional Medicine

Traditional knowledge – an answer to the most pressing global problems? | UN DESA | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/social/permanent-forum-on-indigenous-issues-2019.html

# Chinese Have Long Used "Dry Needle" To Treat Sprains

BY HARMAN W. NICHOLS
United Press Staff Correspondent
Chicago, May 20.—(P)—Ancient
Chinese doctors gave their patients
the needle, and two American scientists admitted today they probably had something there.
Particularly when it comes to

ably had something there.

Particularly when it comes to treating simple aprains, like puffed up ankles.

Janet Travell and Audrie L. Bobb of the Cornell university medical college presented their views on the subject before the 34th annual meeting of the Pederation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. al Biology.

"Acupuncture"

The medical way of saying it is "acupuncture." In our language that means sticking a needle into

somebody.

And, according to the scientists, it works fine.

Chinese doctors have been doing it for two thousand years, appariently with good results. And all of this time—or since the early days of American medicine, anyhow—our physicians have been experimenting with this drug and that in order to get a man up and about after he falls and sprains an ankle. Sometimes that took quite a little spell.

tie spell.

But now comes the needle, and the American scientists, in that one respect, turned way back to the period B. C. for help.

Scientists Travell and Bobb were pretty technical in their paper.

Fain Nyreads and Disappears
But the sum substance was this:
If a needle is insorted (by a skilled practictioner, of course) into a sprained area of the body, the pain is suread to a point where it more or less disappears in a hurry. The swelling is still there, but the pain—no.

inc.

'They call it "dry needling," and it must have come about by accident. In inserting drugs to pained areas with a needle, the scientists finally came to the conclusion that it was the needle and not the drug which scattered the hurt.

They don't know why—but there it was.

They come and want it was.
A spokesman for the Chinese News Service here, who knows all about the needlework in his homeland, said HE thinks he knows why.

"It's always been that way," he

# Chinese Have Long Use Dry Needle To Treat Sprains Illinois



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