

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
KEN HECHLER  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #4

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JAN 9 12 44 PM '99

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WEST VIRGINIA

**NOTICE OF RULE MODIFICATION OF A PROPOSED RULE**

AGENCY: BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE TITLE NUMBER: 32  
CITE AUTHORITY WVa. Code §§ 30-36-7(a) & 30-36-7(b)  
AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES \_\_\_ NO X

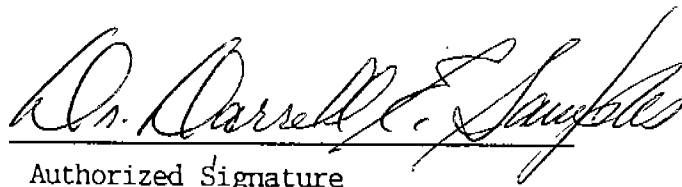
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: 32 CRS 10

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: CODE OF ETHICS FOR  
LICENSED ACUPUNCTURISTS

THE ABOVE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RULE, FOLLOWING REVIEW BY THE LEGISLATIVE RULE MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE IS HEREBY MODIFIED AS A RESULT OF REVIEW AND COMMENT BY THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE. THE ATTACHED MODIFICATIONS ARE FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

  
Authorized Signature

\$2.40

32 CRS 10

**Title 32  
Legislative Rule  
Board of Acupuncture**

FILED  
JAN 8 12 44 PM '99  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WEST VIRGINIA

**Series 10  
Code of Ethics for Licensed Acupuncturists**

**32-10-1. General.**

1.1. Scope. -- This rule establishes a code of ethics for acupuncture and oriental medicine in this state.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §§ 30-36-7 (a) and 30-36-7 (b).

1.3. Filing Date. --

1.4. Effective Date. --

**32-10-2. Application.**

This legislative rule applies to all licensed acupuncturists, student acupuncturists and apprenticed acupuncturists in the State.

**32-10-3. Code of Ethics**

Licensed practitioners shall post the provisions of this section in each acupuncturist office, clinic, or treatment center:

3.1. The Acupuncture Practitioner's primary purpose is to restore, maintain and optimize health in human beings.

3.2. The Acupuncture Practitioner acts to restore, maintain and optimize health by providing individualized care, according to his or her ability and judgment, following the principles of Oriental Medicine.

3.3. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall endeavor to first, do no harm and provide the most effective health care available with the least risk to his or her patients at all times.

(Primum Non Nocere)

3.4. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall recognize, respect and promote the self-healing power of nature inherent in each individual human being. (Vis Medicatrix Naturae)

3.5. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall strive to identify and remove the causes of illness, rather than to merely eliminate or suppress symptoms. (Tolle Causum)

3.6. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall educate his or her patients, inspire rational hope and encourage self-responsibility for health. (Practitioner as Teacher)

3.7. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall treat each person by considering all individual health factors and influences. (Treat the Whole Person)

3.8. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall emphasize the condition of health to promote well-being and to prevent disease for the individual, each community and our world. (Health Promotion, the Best Prevention)

3.9. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall acknowledge the worth and dignity of every person and therefore, shall not exclude anyone from treatment on the basis of ethnic, racial, gender, or sexual orientation.

3.10. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall safeguard the patient's right to privacy and only disclose confidential information when either authorized by the patient or mandated by law.

3.11. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall act judiciously to protect the patient and the public when the incompetent or unethical practices by any person adversely affect health care quality and safety.

3.12. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall maintain competence in Oriental Medicine and strive for professional excellence through assessment of personal strengths, limitations and effectiveness and by advancement of professional knowledge.

3.13. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall conduct his or her practice and professional activities with honesty, integrity and responsibility for individual judgment and actions.

3.14. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall strive to participate in professional activities to advance the standards of care, body of knowledge and public awareness of Oriental Medicine.

3.15. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall respect all ethical, qualified health care

practitioners and cooperate with other health professions to promote health for individual's, the public and the global community.

3.16. The Acupuncture Practitioner shall strive to exemplify personal well-being, ethical character and trust worthiness as a health care professional.

**Section 32-10-4. Ethics regarding the sale of oriental medicines in the office.**

4.1. The sale of medications within an acupuncturist's office shall be based on addressing the needs of the patient. The making of profit is always viewed as a secondary consideration. This is an extension of the code of ethics of the state and national associations governing the conduct of acupuncture physicians.

4.2. While the retail selling of medications could be construed as a conflict of interest on the part of the physician; as long as the underlying intention remains the patient's best interest and not to make profit, and no other source for the formulation and quality of the medication that the practitioner feels is adequate exists, this remains a legitimate and viable service.

4.3. Oriental medicines include, but are not limited to:

4.3.1. Herbs, alone and in combinations;

4.3.2. Glandulars;

4.3.3. Minerals;

4.3.4. Vitamins; and

4.3.5. Chinese patent medicines.

4.4. The U. S. Food and Drug Administration rules regarding the sale of over the counter medications, herbs and materia medica shall be observed by licensees.