

DEVELOPMENT OF CLINIC POLICY FOR INFECTION CONTROL

Office space and facilities will vary for each practice and each will need to develop a manual for dry needling procedures.

These should be based on the principles, work practices and procedures covered in the guidelines of;

(<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/Publishing.nsf/Content/icg-guidelines-index.htm>).

Doug Cary, Clinical Director of AAP Education, has written a white paper titled “Infection Control in Acupuncture & Dry Needling,” which discusses the many issues in relation to infection control and current best practice. This 12page document can be downloaded from www.aapeducation.com.au after free registration as a bronze member.

Ideally the manual will be developed cooperatively with all health care workers (HCWs) involved in the delivery of the service. It should demonstrate clearly to HCWs, patients and regulatory bodies, that the principles of infection control are understood and practised.

An office infection control protocol should consider information and specifications regarding:

- Methods of hand cleaning; soapy water washing and antibacterial gels
- Personal protective equipment requirements
- Setting up the treatment area in preparation for a patient visit
- Defined areas of contamination that require personal protective equipment
- Cleaning between patients
- Changeover procedures between patients
- Handling and disposal of sharps
- Needle stick protocol
- Management of blood or body fluid exposure
- Staff immunisation requirements
- Single-use items
- Solo operators
- Continuing education
- Recording of information during patient treatment including consent
- Use of computers and computer-run equipment during patient treatment.