

## ACUPUNCTURE INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT TO TREAT

I hereby request and voluntarily consent to the performance of acupuncture treatments and other procedures with the scope of the practice of acupuncture, who now or in the future treat me while employed by, working or associated with or servicing as back-up for the designated acupuncturist, including those working at the clinic or office listed below or any other office or clinic, whether signatories to this form or not.

I understand methods of treatment may include, but are not limited to acupuncture, moxibustion, cupping, electrical stimulation, Tui -Na (Chinese massage) Chinese herbal medicine, and nutritional counseling.

I understand that herbs may need to be prepared and tinctures and other forms such as capsules etc., should be consumed according to the instruction provided orally and in writing. The herbs may have an unpleasant smell or taste. I will immediately notify a member of the clinical staff of any unanticipated or unpleasant effects associated with consumption of the herbs.

I understand acupuncture is generally recognized as a safe method of treatment, but may have some side effects, including bruising, numbness or tingling near the needling sites that may last a few days, and dizziness or fainting. Bruising is a common side effect of cupping. Unusual risks of acupuncture include spontaneous miscarriage, nerve damage and organ puncture, including lung puncture (pneumothorax). Infection is another possible risk, although the clinic uses sterile disposable needles and maintains a clean and safe environment. Burns and /or scarring are a potential risk of moxibustion and cupping.

I understand that while this document describes the major risks of treatment, other side effects and risks may occur. The herbs and nutritional supplements (which are from plant, animal, and mineral sources) that have been recommended are traditionally considered safe in the practice of Chinese Medicine, although some may be toxic in large doses.

I understand the use of some herbs may be inappropriate during pregnancy. Some possible side effects of taking herbs include nausea, gas, stomach ache, vomiting, headache diarrhea, rashes, hives and tingling of the tongue. I will immediately notify the treatment provider if I am currently pregnant or plan to become so soon

I do not expect the clinical staff to be able to anticipate and explain all possible risks and complications of treatment, and I wish to rely on the clinical staff to exercise judgment during the course of treatment which the clinical staff thinks at the time, based upon the facts then known, in my best interest.

I understand that results are not guaranteed.

I understand the clinical and administrative staff may review my patient records and lab reports, but all my records will be kept confidential and will not be released without my written consent.

By voluntarily signing this form, I show that I have read, or have had read to me, the above consent to treatment, have been informed about the risks and benefits of acupuncture and other procedures, and have had an opportunity to ask questions. I also agree to hold my therapist, office staff, managers and owners free of any all responsibility and/or liability from injury and or conditions arising from my treatment.

I intend this consent form to cover the entire course of treatment for my present condition and for any future condition(s) for which I seek treatment.

(See next page)

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## THE ROLE OF ACUPUNCTURIST IN GEORGIA

Georgia Rule 360-6-16 Informed Consent for Treatment states an acupuncturist is not allowed to make a medical diagnosis of a patient's health and/or wellness. Therefore, if you are seeking to obtain a medical diagnosis or treatment for a medical diagnosis, you should seek medical advice from a licensed physician.

## DOES ACUPUNCTURE HAVE SIDE EFFECTS?

- Acupuncture is extremely safe; however side effects can occur but are very rare (typically less than 1 per 10,000 treatments)
- Drowsiness occurs after treatment in a small number of patients
- Minor bleeding or bruising occurs after acupuncture in about 3% of treatments.
- Pain during treatment occurs in about 1% of treatments.
- Symptoms may get slightly worse after treatment (less than 3% of patients). You should be aware of this, but it is usually a **good sign**.
- Fainting can occur in certain patients, particularly at the first treatment.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Acupuncture is a natural and safe way for your body to address symptoms and restore homeostasis over time. It is highly suggested to obtain a minimum of **ten treatments**, especially in instances of chronic issues. While western medicine treatments seem to "reduce and/or relieve" symptoms, it may be only a temporary band aid and does not address the underlying imbalances, which are Chinese medicine's principles and focus.

## ANY HEALTH CONDITION YOUR PRACTITIONER NEEDS TO KNOW?

- If you have ever experienced a seizure, dizziness, or fainting episode
- If you have a pacemaker or any other electrical implants
- If you have a bleeding disorder
- If you are taking anti-coagulants or any other medications
- If you have damaged heart valves or have any other particular risk of infection
- Any other health condition not previously disclosed?

**NO**     **YES**    (if YES, describe below)

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## STATEMENT OF CONSENT

I am seeking to be treated with acupuncture and I confirm that I have read and understood the above information, have disclosed all current and potential health conditions and I voluntarily consent to receiving acupuncture treatment.

**Print full name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_