



Proposed Competencies for Western Medical Acupuncture (WMA) and Related Needling Techniques in Osteopathic Practice

December 2024

Competencies

This document presents the proposed minimum or threshold competencies for Western Medical Acupuncture (WMA) and Related Needling Techniques in osteopathic practice in New Zealand. These competencies are supplementary to the general Osteopathic Practice Competencies, and an osteopathic practitioner utilising WMA in their practice would be expected to meet both sets of standards.

The competencies are aligned to the five domains presented in the Osteopathic Practice Competencies:

1. Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership responsibilities
2. Communication and patient partnership
3. Knowledge, skills and performance
4. Safety and quality in practice
5. Professionalism

Domain 1: Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership responsibilities

Competencies

- 1.1** Understands the responsibilities of tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti under te Tiriti o Waitangi and demonstrates a commitment to meeting these in providing WMA in practice.
- 1.2** Understands Māori models of health, health promotion and health practices, and their relationship to WMA practice and models of care.

Domain 2: Communication and patient partnership

Competencies

- 2.1** Communicates clearly with patients and ensures that appropriate informed consent is gained when discussing WMA.
- 2.2** Considers socio-cultural factors in WMA communication, ensuring inclusivity for Māori and other diverse populations.
- 2.3** Ensures clear, culturally relevant explanation, and patient and/or care-giver comprehension, of the clinical reasoning supporting the use (or not) of WMA.
- 2.4** Ensures that patients, and wider whānau, are appropriately informed about the use, effect and potential risks of WMA.
- 2.5** Demonstrates a commitment to following the OCNZ guidelines for the examination and treatment of sensitive areas, and that communication with patients related to WMA use in these areas is explicit and guideline-led.

Domain 3: Knowledge, skills, and performance

Competencies

- 3.1** Understands and appropriately employs and adapts a range of WMA-specific clinical skills.
- 3.2** Demonstrates an appropriate level of WMA-specific clinical reasoning, including specific understanding of contraindications when applying WMA in a clinical setting.
- 3.3** Maintains an appropriate level of WMA specific record keeping.
- 3.4** Maintains a commitment to the principles of WMA-specific evidence-based practice within the context of Aotearoa New Zealand and integrates this appropriately within the osteopathic consultation and treatment approach.

Domain 4: Safety and quality in practice

Competencies

- 4.1** Ensures safe needle use and disposal and demonstrates the appropriate management of a range of adverse reactions following the use of WMA.
- 4.2** Ensures WMA care and management of adverse events is conducted in a culturally safe manner.
- 4.3** Provides a safe environment in which to use WMA techniques, ensuring compliance with health and safety requirements.
- 4.4** Provides for continuing professional learning related to WMA practice.

Domain 5: Professionalism

Competencies

- 5.1** Maintains an awareness of the regulatory environment within which they are working, and adherence to the associated regulatory and legal responsibilities.
- 5.2** Maintains a multidisciplinary approach and demonstrates the appropriate use of WMA with patients who are undergoing other clinical interventions.
- 5.3** Demonstrates a commitment to promoting equity and Te Tiriti-aligned practices within the WMA community.