

Only those that are registered in the extended **Scope of Practice: Western Medical Acupuncture and Related Needling Techniques** and have maintained a current annual practising certificate may lawfully incorporate the relevant techniques or approaches into his or her practise.

Scope of Practice: Western Medical Acupuncture and Related Needling Techniques

All registrants previously registered in the Scope of Practice for Osteopaths using Western Medical Acupuncture and Related Needling Techniques will from the date this notice takes effect become registered in the Western Medical Acupuncture and Related Needling Techniques Scope of Practice

Osteopaths registered in the Scope of Practice: Western Medical Acupuncture and Related Needling Techniques are primary healthcare practitioners who hold the General Osteopathic Scope of Practice, and who are qualified to perform Western medical acupuncture and related needling techniques, such as 'dry-needling', intra-muscular stimulation or other skin penetrating techniques using a fine filiform (acupuncture) needle.

Western medical acupuncture (WMA) is a therapeutic modality involving the insertion of fine needles; it evolved from traditional based acupuncture systems. Its practitioners no longer adhere to concepts such as Yin/Yang and circulation of qi, and regard acupuncture as a modality rather than a complete "alternative medical system". WMA is an evolving inter-disciplinary form of practice drawing on contemporary knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathology, and the principles of evidence based medicine rather than traditional systems of knowledge. It is mainly used to treat musculoskeletal pain, (including myofascial trigger point pain), postoperative pain and nausea. Holders of the scope are bound to practise according to the Code of Practice for Osteopaths using Western Medical Acupuncture and Related Needling Techniques.

Protection of Title: those registered in the Scope of Practice Western Medical Acupuncture and Related Needling Techniques are entitled to use the title of **Osteopathic - Western Medical Acupuncture Practitioner**.

Pursuant to section 12 of the Act, the Council has prescribed the following qualifications for registration in the Scope of Practice: Western Medical Acupuncture and Related Needling Techniques.

All applicants must:

(1) hold one of the qualifications prescribed for registration in the Scope of Practice – Osteopath
and

(2) hold one of the following qualifications:

- Post Graduate Certificate in Western Acupuncture, Auckland University of Technology
- Post Graduate Certificate in Western Medical Acupuncture, University of Hertfordshire (United Kingdom).

or (in addition to paragraph [1] above

(3) in accordance with section 15(2) of the Act, satisfy the Council that they hold an overseas qualification that is, in the opinion of the Council, equivalent to, or as satisfactory as, one of the qualifications prescribed in paragraph [2] above. If necessary in the opinion of the Council, the applicant will be required to complete further training in Western medical acupuncture.