

ASA / NCCAOM Town Hall V Q&A

May 13, 2020, 5pm PDT/8pm EDT

[Video Recording](#)

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PROFESSION RELATED QUESTIONS

Reopening

Question: Thank you for your presentation, my question is if we start to open the clinic, how shall we keep our patients and practitioners safe? How to clean the massage table between each patient?

Answered on 5/17/20: Please watch our [May 6, 2020 Town Hall](#) for Return to Work Recommendations. ASA recommends that practitioners follow the recommendations by the [CCAOM Clinical Advisory](#). For cleaning the treatment table, ASA recommends the use of table paper and the use of [EPA approved cleaners](#).

Question: When you do start seeing people. What will be the protocols for safety?

Answered on 5/17/20: Please watch our [May 6, 2020 Town Hall](#) for Return to Work Recommendations. ASA recommends that practitioners follow the recommendations by the [CCAOM Clinical Advisory](#).

Hospital Practice

Question: Are Dr. Deng and Galina able to bill E/M codes in the hospital for L.Ac. staff that are not MDs?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: No.

Question: Can you elaborate more about the use of EKG in the report?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: I use it to interpret as a TCM pulse. More info: <https://www.asiantherapies.org/modern-pulse-diagnosis> .

Question: I am not cleared on Medicare is not paying for E&M and only pay for procedure, I had different experience, where Medicare reimbursed patients for the E&M not the acupuncture. Can you please clarify on that? Thanks.

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: I am not an insurance biller and do not know your particular circumstances, but to the best of my knowledge: Because it is a Physician who actually is billing as "incident to" , Medicare reimbursed his consult not your acupuncture service. They did not pay for acupuncture most likely because it was billed incorrectly, or wrong diagnosis was used, or your records did not meet the documentation criteria. I would recommend using professional insurance biller services that specializes in billing for acupuncturists preferably familiar with YOUR state law.

Question: Many well-qualified acupuncturists are not up to date in documentation. Do hospital systems provide training in documentation for acupuncturists as part of the onboarding process? If not, which resources do you recommend improving our documentation skills?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: (1) Hospital provides technical knowledge of how to use particular EMR system, not documentation writing - this should be a part of your professional education, that unfortunately is lacking in acupuncture word and almost non-existent for herbs; (2) This Sunday 05/17/20 NCCAOM/AAMAZ will present 4 hours long Townhall covering,

Telemedicine/Insurance/Billing/Acupuncture Documentation with this year requirements; (3) I will be teaching a class on 07/11/2020 that covers year 2021 major changes in EM coding requirements and guidelines how to use and incorporate future ICD-11, with separate SOAP templates specialized for acupuncture or herbs. more info at:

<https://www.asiantherapies.org/standard-terminology> .

Question: How, if at all, do you think being recognized as a provider by Medicare would affect our ability to work in a hospital setting?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: This is the most important step on the pathway to becoming a usual and customary part of healthcare system and get employment.

Question: I am an acupuncturist with a private practice and work as a PA with a local hospital system (I work outpatient). I would love some advice and guidance on how to approach my hospital system in doing some sort of integration. We have a DO residency program, which might be beneficial for integration. Any advice and guidance would be highly appreciated. Thank you!

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: Question is not clear. 1. If you want to work for them start with accreditation inquiring. Documents package is available at NCCAOM website. 2. If you want to teach offer free grand-rounds classes.

Question: Do you find that a DAOM is more likely to be able to work in a hospital than a MACOM?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: Not necessarily at this stage, if you are licensed you are eligible to apply for hospital position, but in the future we all will have to accept a doctorate as an entry level degree, without it we always will remain at the level of auxiliary personnel.

Question: Is there a site where we can get a summary of all the outcome results of studies you have done that I can present to our New Zealand?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: (1) The current poster with 2 years CCF herbal clinic safety data is available at <https://www.asiantherapies.org/research> ; (2) The bigger study with 6 years safety data and clinic design model will be publish this year. Keep checking my website.

Question: What is your business model in hospital? Paying rent for the space?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: Employee.

Question: Are there many applicants for relatively few employment openings in the hospitals?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: Yes, but it is hard to find well qualified person who is prepared to work in the hospital.

Question: Are you using moxibustion in the hospital setting?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: No.

Question: Is there any EHR program specific for acupuncture that the panelist can recommend?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: (1) <https://www.unifiedpractice.com> has some good orthopedic assessment tools and has easy to use acupuncture records platform, has in office herbal inventory/dispensary but herbs records are not fully FDA compliant; (2) <https://www.craneherb.com> has Acupuncture record capabilities and is more specific for TCM

herbs perfect FDA compliance records especially if you use 3rd party compounding, will be publicly available in a couple months.

Question: Who should we contact at hospitals to inquire about job opportunities, i.e., human resources, or do you recommend contacting the integrative medicine department directly?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: Depends on your local hospital, any department can have an acupuncturist, it is important to find the right person who will listen and has decision making power.

Question: Foreign graduated Licensed Acupuncturist practiced in foreign hospitals, but cannot apply for Memorial Sloan Kettering hospital, because they only accept master's degree graduates, what about experience and bachelor's degree?

Answered by GR on May 15, 2020: To practice, independently, in private practice or in a hospital you must be STATE licensed, accordingly your education must meet current licensure educational requirements. A majority of the states use NCCAOM exam for one of the requirements for licensure <https://www.nccaom.org/certification/> .

Question: Are hospitals like Sloan Kettering making a push to get other hospitals to integrate?

Answered on May 17, 2020: The Integrative Medicine team at MSKCC works closely with the Society of Integrative Oncology. SIO has been working to encourage the Cancer Hospitals of America to incorporate more Integrative Oncology.

Question: Are you seeing cancer patients for acupuncture at Memorial Sloan during COVID? What are your protective protocols if you are? Thank you!

Answered on May 17, 2020: No. Like many hospitals, to preserve PPEs, integrative medicine departments have been closed.

Question: When Dr. Deng mentioned hospital physicians making an order for acupuncture procedure, does it mean "making a referral" to the acupuncture / integrative medicine team?

Answered on May 17, 2020: Yes.

Medicare / Insurance

Question: Are Insurance Companies requiring protocols or can we customize individual plans in the integrative health care system?

Answered on May 17, 2020: We are not aware of protocol requirements by insurance companies.

Question: It seems likely that moving forward insurance will play a larger role in acupuncture, and perhaps herbal practices. Can anyone speak to the reimbursement rates for a typical acupuncture encounter - whether in a private clinical setting or in a hospital setting? My experience and my concern is that the rates are in some cases much lower than private pay and may be an obstacle to recruiting future practitioners, while severely limiting the income of current practitioners.

Answered on May 17, 2020: Medicare covers acupuncture for chronic low back pain. However, since licensed acupuncturists are not in the Medicare system, payment must go through referring physicians. ASA Insurance Committee is preparing a document on Medicare's coverage. Please stay tuned for more information. [Here is the decision memo.](#)

Question: What is the fee schedule with Medicare and acupuncture?

Answered on May 17, 2020: ASA Insurance Committee is preparing an FAQ document on Medicare's coverage. Please stay tuned for more information.

Question: Can patients use their HSA \$\$ or FSA \$ to pay for herbs?

Answered on May 17, 2020: The cost of herbs taken for general well-being are not reimbursable. However, the cost of herbs taken to alleviate a specific medical condition are reimbursable. Medical diagnosis is required.

Question: I currently have hospital privileges with various local hospitals (oncology) as well as a VA provider. in both aspects we are using ICD10, I noticed you used and brought up ICD11. is the Cleveland clinic using ICD11?

Answered on May 17, 2020: ICD 10 is the current system used in the United States. In some countries, ICD-11 is being used. The US just adopted ICD10 in 2015, when some countries started using it in 1995. Based on this, it will be likely that it might take a decade for the US to start adopting ICD 11.

Question: Will NCCAOM or ASA provide a class/lecture for the new ICD-11 codes when they become available before it becomes live?

Answered on May 17, 2020: While other countries are using ICD11, we expect it will take up to a decade for ICD11 to be adopted in the US.

NCCAOM

Data Collection

Question: Is it possible for NCCAOM to gather a directory of dual-trained diplomats (PA/NP/CNM/DO/MD and acupuncture)? This would really help us connect with each other.

Answered on 5/18/20 – The NCCAOM requests information concerning other licenses held on all applications as well as on the Diplomate Demographic Survey. The link for the Diplomate Demographic survey is sent to all Diplomates upon recertification. Unfortunately, we cannot make the field mandatory to complete as many individuals only have one license and have no data to enter into this area of the application. The field is optional therefore most individuals do not provide this information.