



## WAEMA 2020 Legislative Agenda

### ***Support HB 2203/SB 6038 Regarding practice of Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine:***

The bills expanding the scope of practice for Acupuncture and Eastern Medicine Practitioners to add local anesthetics, oxygen, and epinephrine for use in point injection therapy. The DOH did an Acupuncture Sunrise Review over the interim and considers them appropriate additions to the acupuncture scope of practice to increase patient safety by preventing adverse reactions. The bills also clarify that:

- acupuncture is a holistic system of medicine includes a variety of traditional and modern therapeutic treatments, such as the practice of acupuncture techniques and herbal medicine to maintain and promote wellness, prevent, manage, and reduce pain, treat substance use disorder, and promote health and treat organic or functional disorders.
- ashi points, motor points, trigger points, dry needling and intramuscular needling are acupuncture;
- ear or auricular acupuncture, NADA protocol, battlefield acupuncture, and the Nogier system are typical acupuncture treatments;
- contact needling and non-insertion tools, used in Japanese acupuncture, such as teishin, enshin, or zanshin are included.

***Supports SB 5601/HB 1562 Health care benefit management:*** Creates a separate chapter to establish standards for the regulatory oversight of benefit managers.

***Supports SB 5887 Health carrier requirements for prior authorization standards:*** Prohibits a health carrier from requiring certain treatment visits to meet medical necessity standards, so long as the patient's treating or referring provider determines the visit is medically necessary.

***Supports “Apple Health Non-Pharmacological Pain Treatment Coverage Recommendations”:*** Add a budget proviso for acupuncture and chiropractic as an alternative to opioids under Medicaid. Medicaid patients need and deserve safe, non-pharmacological alternatives for pain management that do not lead to addiction.

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