



**Acupuncture
Informed Consent for Patient Care**

Acupuncture has been explained to me as a treatment consisting of the insertion of needles through the skin at specific points on the surface of the body. The purpose of acupuncture has been explained as the alleviation or cure of systems or disorders.

I understand the methods of treatment may include but are not limited to, acupuncture, acupressure, Moxa, cupping therapy, Chinese herbal medicine, allergy elimination technique, nutritional or herbal counseling are not considered a substitute of Western Medicine. Therapies and advice offered shall not be construed by the client to be a diagnosis of treatment of any disease or injury. We recommend that you CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN for any serious conditions and receive at least two medical opinions. It is your right and responsibility for your own body.

I have been informed that acupuncture is generally a safe method of treatment, but understand that risks may result from acupuncture treatment. Among possible risks are: areas of anesthesia, fainting, weakness, nausea, hematoma, infection, pain and discomfort, numbness or tingling near the needling sites, pneumothorax (lung puncture), spontaneous miscarriage, nerve damage and aggravation of present symptoms. Burns and/or scarring are a potential risk of Moxa and cupping, or when treatment involves the use of heat lamps. Bruising is a common side effect of cupping. Infection is another possible risk, although the clinic uses sterile disposable one-time use needles and maintains a clean and safe environment. The potential benefits: acupuncture may allow for the painless relief of one's symptoms without the need for drugs, and improve balance of bodily energies leading to the prevention of illness, or the elimination of the presenting problem.

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 that some herbs may be inappropriate during pregnancy. I understand that the Chinese herbal medicine may need to be prepared and the teas consumed according to the instructions provided orally and in writing. The herbs may be an unpleasant smell or taste. I will immediately notify a member of the clinical staff of any unanticipated or unpleasant effects associated with the consumption of the herbs.

Being hungry, tired, or stressed can infrequently make the body more sensitive to the acupuncture treatment. Please tell your provider if you have any conditions that may inhibit blood clotting, such as hemophilia or Coumadin use. Please use caution when walking with bare feet in the treatment room.

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 deems appropriate at the time, based upon the facts then known is in my best interests.

I further understand and agree to hold harmless, indemnify and protect against court action the individual therapist as well as the management and owners of this clinic due to and from the occurrence of any of the risks or side effects described herein.

Patient's Name (please print) _____

Signature of patient or legal guardian

Date