BYELAW

Made under Section 14 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

relating to

ACUPUNCTURE

by the

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE

DISTRICT OF MENDIP
MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

BYELAW

With respect to

ACUPUNCTURE


1. Interpretation:
   a) In these byelaws
      "Client" means any person undergoing treatment;
      "Operator" means any person giving treatment;
      "Premises" means any premises registered under Part VIII of the Act;
      "Proprietor" means any person registered under Part VIII of the Act;
      "Treatment" means any operation in the practice of acupuncture;
      "The Treatment Area" means any part of premises where treatment is given to clients.
   b) The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of these byelaws as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises and fittings therein a proprietor shall ensure that:
   a) All internal walls, doors, windows, partitions, floors and floor coverings and ceilings in any part of the premises used by clients and operators are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;
   b) The treatment area is used solely for giving treatment;
   c) All waste material and other litter arising from the treatment is placed in suitable covered receptacles, which are washable and leakproof, or use a leakproof liner bag. The receptacles shall be emptied or the bags changed, at least once every working day, or more frequently as necessary, and the material disposed of safely. Where liners are not used the receptacles shall then be cleaned.
d) All needles used in treatments are placed after use in separate covered and 
leakproof reusable boxes, or disposable needle boxes designed for the 
purpose. Where re-usable boxes are used they shall be emptied at least 
once very working day or more frequently as necessary, and the contents 
disposed of safely or sterilised for re-use as appropriate. The box shall then 
be sterilised. Where needle boxes are used they shall be disposed of 
safely at suitable intervals;

e) All furniture and fittings in the premises are kept clean and in such good 
repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;

f) All tables, couches and seats used by clients in the treatment area and any 
surface on which the items are specified in 3(b) below are placed 
immediately prior to treatment have a smooth impervious surface which is 
wiped down regularly with a suitable disinfectant;

g) Where tables or couches are used, they shall be covered by disposable 
paper sheet which shall be changed for each client;

h) A notice or notices reading “No Smoking” are prominently displayed within 
the treatment area.

3. For the purpose of securing the cleansing and, so far as is appropriate, the 
sterilisation of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the 
treatment:

a) An operator shall ensure that, before use in connection with treatment, any 
gown, wrap or other protective clothing, paper or other covering, towel, 
cloth or other such articles used in the treatment:

   (i) is clean and in good repair and, so far as is appropriate, is sterile.

   (ii) Has not been previously used in connection with any other client 
        unless it consists of a material which can be and has been 
        adequately cleaned and, so far as appropriate, sterilised;

b) An operator shall ensure that any needle, metal instrument, or other item 
of equipment used in treatment or for handling instruments and needles 
used in treatment is in a sterile condition and kept sterile until is used;

c) A proprietor shall provide:

   (i) adequate facilities and equipment for the purpose of sterilisation 
       (unless pre-sterilised items are used) and of cleansing, as required 
       in pursuance of these byelaws;

   (ii) sufficient and safe gas points and/or electrical socket outlets to 
        enable compliance with these byelaws;

   (iii) an adequate constant supply of clean, hot and cold water readily 
        available at all times on the premises;
(iv) adequate storage for all items mentioned in byelaw 3(a) and (b) above, so that those items shall be properly stored in a clean and suitable place so as to avoid, as far as possible, the risk of contamination.

4. For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of operators -

a) An operator whilst giving treatment shall ensure that:

   (i) his/her hands are clean, and nails kept short;
   (ii) he/she is wearing clean and washable clothing or alternatively, a disposable covering that has not previously been used in connection with any other client;
   (iii) he/she keeps any open boil, sore, cut or open wound on an exposed part of his/her body effectively covered by an impermeable dressing;
   (iv) he/she does not smoke or consume food or drink

b) A proprietor shall provide:

   (i) suitable and sufficient washing facilities for the use of operators, such facilities to have hot and cold water, sanitising soap or detergent, and a nail brush;
   (ii) suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for operators.