

4.6 Acupuncture and Dry Needle Therapy

Clinic name and Logo

Acupuncture/Dry Needling Critical Event Management Plans (sample)

Your plan should describe what will happen if something goes wrong during or after acupuncture or dry needling treatment.

Your plan should answer these questions for each adverse event separately:

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|------------------------------|---|
| Adverse Event Plan #1 | For XX (What could possibly go wrong during or after acupuncture or dry needling therapy? i.e. Bleeding/Hematoma) Prepare a plan for each adverse event. |
| Management | How is the adverse event recognized? How do you plan to manage the situation? |
| Personnel involved | What steps need to be taken for each adverse event? And by whom? Who needs to be notified? |
| Patient Strategies | What instructions or advice needs to be given to patients to manage the adverse events should it occur after the patient leaves your practice? (TIP: You should have already covered what could go wrong when you obtained written informed consent from the patient) |
| Follow-up | What follow up is needed? And what is the time frame? The plan should include recording in the chart as appropriate. |
| Last Review date: | Keep your plan up to date Review the plan at least annually. |

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General Tips:

- Personalize your plan to match the kinds of things you do in practice. Ensure your plan is easy to understand, accessible and communicated to anyone in the practice who might encounter a patient in distress. Remember, that the adverse event may be identified by a non-PT staff person – a receptionist, another health care provider, your employers, the patient or their caregivers so the plan should be well understood by all.
- For a sample of a completed plan please see Appendix A of Physiotherapy Alberta College + Association Practice Guideline Dry Needling Critical Event Management March 2015 at www.physiotherapyalberta.ca

Legislative Reference:

The Physiotherapists Act requires physiotherapists to prepare for adverse events:

4(2) A physiotherapist must

- (a) refer a client to another physiotherapist or health care provider when a specific intervention is beyond his or her competence or scope of practice;
- (b) minimize the risk of an adverse reaction to an intervention by
 - (i) performing appropriate testing before an intervention,
 - (ii) recognizing and documenting an adverse reaction to an intervention, and
 - (iii) adjusting the intervention plan or discontinuing service as required;
- (c) ensure that auxiliary staff, students and volunteer personnel are appropriately trained and supervised to perform assigned tasks;
- (d) follow appropriate infection control procedures;
- (e) document on an ongoing basis services provided, responses to services, and changes in status of the client relative to the plan of care; and
- (f) where indicated, provide the client and any other appropriate person with relevant information about self-management, health promotion, and disease and injury prevention.