



Acupuncture Association of  
Chartered Physiotherapists

## **Revised NICE Guidelines open the door for physiotherapists to use acupuncture for chronic pain management**

**London April 7th:** A revision to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's guidelines now allows acupuncture to be used as a viable treatment for chronic pain. The changes also mean that NHS registered physiotherapists may be approved to administer the treatment on a community level further down the line, replacing the need for certain pain management medications including opioids.

The professional acupuncture network, **The Acupuncture Association of Chartered Physiotherapists (AACP)**, welcomed the decision which will allow physiotherapists to manage a range of primary chronic pain conditions proactively and effectively.

*"Acupuncture has long been seen, incorrectly, as an alternative treatment for pain management, however, today's announcement reconfirms its effectiveness as a viable and medically proven treatment to reduce pain for millions, without the need for medication."*

*"As a professional body, our members have consistently championed the use of medical acupuncture as a way of managing chronic pain. As of today, acupuncture trained physiotherapists will be able to offer an effective treatment to their patients as part of their recovery and pain management regime."*

The revision of the guidelines also means that, provided the General Medical Council approve the change, the NHS will be able to offer acupuncture as part of its physiotherapy programme.

For more information please visit: <https://www.aacp.org.uk/>

### **Notes to Editors**

The AACP is the largest professional body for acupuncture in the UK; founded in 1984, the association has been operating for over 35 years and has grown steadily to become the organisation that it is today.

AACP forms the association for the practice of evidence based, western medical acupuncture (WMA) in physiotherapy. We represent our members with law makers, the public, NHS and private health insurers and actively support them with clinical and legal advice, training and resources.

### ***Integrating Evidence-Based Acupuncture into Physiotherapy for the Benefit of the Patient***

