



Fields of Opportunities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Acupuncturist license applicants to face criminal background check

DES MOINES – The Iowa Board of Medicine is increasing the screening of applicants who are seeking licensure to practice acupuncture.

New amendments in 653 Chapters 8 and 17 of the Iowa Administrative Code require a criminal background check as a part of the licensure process. The amendments, which also further define the process for denial of licensure and remove outdated rules relating to registrants and lapsed licenses, were adopted by the Board in April and became effective June 9.

Amy Van Maanen, director of licensure administration, said the background check for acupuncturists was added to be consistent with the same requirement for physician applicants. The checks are done by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.

“We did not have any problem applicants that made us want to change what we were doing,” she said.

At the start of 2010, there were 41 licensed acupuncturists practicing in Iowa.

In 1994, the Board assumed responsibility for registering acupuncturists, and a new law in 2000 required the Board to license and regulate the profession.

Acupuncture is defined as a form of health care developed from traditional and modern oriental medical concepts. Fine needles are inserted into the body at specific points to induce anesthesia, relieve pain, or to treat or prevent other various disorders.

Physicians, chiropractors, dentists and podiatrists can practice acupuncture under their Iowa professional license.