

HEALTH INTAKE FORM

Please take the time to fill out this questionnaire carefully. The information you provide will assist me in formulating a complete health profile for you. All answers are confidential.

Date: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Is it ok to contact you via email? Yes: _____ No: _____ Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____ Cell: _____

Gender: _____ Marital Status: _____ Occupation: _____

Referred By: _____ Emergency contact & phone# _____

Primary Care Physician: _____ Phone #: _____

Are you currently/within the last year been under the care of your Primary Care Dr.? _____

What conditions? _____

Describe your main concerns (Symptoms, onset, diagnoses, duration, etc.)

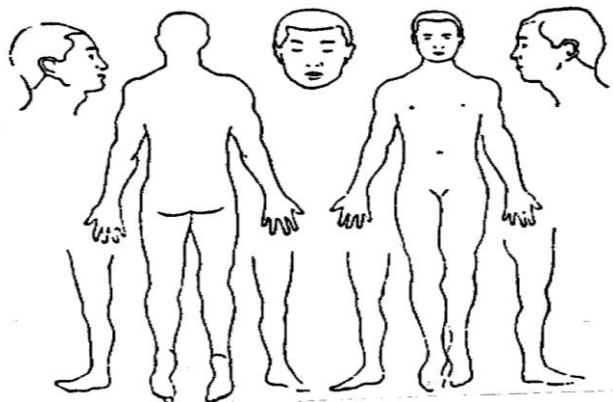
What makes your condition better? (rest, movement, heat, cold, fresh air, eating, crying, etc.) _____

What makes your condition worse? (stress, fatigue, hunger, heat, certain foods, damp days etc.) _____

Any other related symptoms or other areas of tension? (headache, insomnia, nausea, etc.) _____

Trauma (emotional, physical), Surgeries, accidents, injuries, chronic illness: (please include date).

Please indicate where your symptoms are occurring & indicate any pain, tenderness, burning, numbness, tingling, stiffness, swelling, bruising, open wounds, scars, etc.



Allergies/Intolerances: (Nuts, oils, food, chemical, environmental, drugs, etc.) _____

Medications: (names & dosages) Please attach an additional page if necessary. _____

Vitamins/Supplements/Herbs: _____

Exercise

Days per week	Length of workout	Type of Activity
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Diet

Meals per day	Snacks	Caffeinated Drinks	Alcohol/week	
	A lot	Some	A little	None
Veggies/fruit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meat/seafood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eggs/nuts/beans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dairy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whole grains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
White flour carbs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sugar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fried foods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Personal History

Please check any conditions you have now or have had in the past.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arthritis | <input type="checkbox"/> Liver/Gall Bladder Disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke | <input type="checkbox"/> Heart Disease |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High/Low Blood Pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Hypo/Hyperglycemia | <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney Disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding Disorder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes | <input type="checkbox"/> Allergies | <input type="checkbox"/> Diverticulitis/IBS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ulcer | <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures/Epilepsy | <input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis | <input type="checkbox"/> Raynaud's Disease |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Fatigue | <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia | <input type="checkbox"/> Thyroid Disorder | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Sclerosis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcoholism | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy | <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Pain Condition | <input type="checkbox"/> Whooping Cough/TB |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gastritis/Pancreatitis | <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> Infertility | <input type="checkbox"/> Emphysema |

Family Medical History

F (father), M (mother), S (sister), B (brother), GM (grandmother), GF (grandfather)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes ____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures ____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Heart Disease ____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Stroke ____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Blood Pressure ____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Allergies ____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer ____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma ____ |

Please take your time and **check** if you have had any of these items listed below in the last **year** or you feel they are a significant part of your medical history.

General

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Appetite | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Sleeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue | <input type="checkbox"/> Fevers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chills | <input type="checkbox"/> Night Sweats | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweats Easily | <input type="checkbox"/> Tremors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cravings | <input type="checkbox"/> Localized Weakness | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Balance | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in appetite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bleed/Bruise easily | <input type="checkbox"/> Weight loss/gain | <input type="checkbox"/> Peculiar tastes/smells | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental/gum problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle weakness/fatigue | <input type="checkbox"/> Sudden energy drop | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer Hot or Cold drink | <input type="checkbox"/> Cold hands and feet |

Skin and Hair

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rashes | <input type="checkbox"/> Ulcerations | <input type="checkbox"/> Hives/Allergic Dermatitis | <input type="checkbox"/> Itching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eczema/Psoriasis | <input type="checkbox"/> Dandruff | <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of hair | <input type="checkbox"/> Recent moles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Skin discoloration | <input type="checkbox"/> Acne | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in skin/hair texture | <input type="checkbox"/> Face flushing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dermatitis | <input type="checkbox"/> Warts | <input type="checkbox"/> Fungal Infection | <input type="checkbox"/> Weak or ridged nails |

Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, Throat

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty swallowing | <input type="checkbox"/> Migraines | <input type="checkbox"/> Glasses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eye Strain | <input type="checkbox"/> Eye pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor night vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Night Blindness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Color Blindness | <input type="checkbox"/> Cataracts | <input type="checkbox"/> Blurred vision | <input type="checkbox"/> Earaches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ringing in ears | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> Spots in front of eyes | <input type="checkbox"/> Sinus problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nose bleeds | <input type="checkbox"/> Recurrent sore throats/colds | <input type="checkbox"/> Grinding teeth | <input type="checkbox"/> Facial pain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sores on lips/tongue | <input type="checkbox"/> Dental problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Jaw clicks/locks/TMJ | <input type="checkbox"/> Headaches |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry mouth | <input type="checkbox"/> Excess saliva | <input type="checkbox"/> Head other _____ |

Cardiovascular

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chest pain or pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Irregular heart beat | <input type="checkbox"/> Palpitations at rest | <input type="checkbox"/> Fainting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cold hands/feet | <input type="checkbox"/> Swelling of hands/feet | <input type="checkbox"/> Blood clots | <input type="checkbox"/> Phlebitis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath | <input type="checkbox"/> Varicose/spider veins | <input type="checkbox"/> Pressure in chest | <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low blood pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> Spontaneous sweating | | |

Respiratory

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cough/Wheezing | <input type="checkbox"/> Coughing blood | <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronchitis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pneumonia | <input type="checkbox"/> Pain with deep inhalation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tight sensation in chest | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult inhale/exhale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty breathing when lying down | | <input type="checkbox"/> Excess Production of phlegm...Color _____ | |

Gastrointestinal

Frequency of Bowel Movements _____

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loose stools (>2 per day) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry | <input type="checkbox"/> Soft | <input type="checkbox"/> Mucous | <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete | <input type="checkbox"/> Undigested Food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea | <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting | <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea | <input type="checkbox"/> Constipation | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gas | <input type="checkbox"/> Belching | <input type="checkbox"/> Black stools | <input type="checkbox"/> Blood in stool | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigestion | <input type="checkbox"/> Bad breath | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectal pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Hemorrhoids | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bloating | <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic laxative use | <input type="checkbox"/> Loose stools (>2 per day) | <input type="checkbox"/> Abdominal pain/cramps | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in appetite | <input type="checkbox"/> Acid reflux/GERD | <input type="checkbox"/> Hernia | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor appetite | <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant thirst | <input type="checkbox"/> IBS/Crohn's Disease | | | |

Genito-Urinary

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pain on urination | <input type="checkbox"/> Frequent urination | <input type="checkbox"/> Blood in urine | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent urination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to hold urine | <input type="checkbox"/> Kidney stones | <input type="checkbox"/> Scanty flow | <input type="checkbox"/> Copious flow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impotence | <input type="checkbox"/> Sores on genitals | <input type="checkbox"/> Urinary tract infection | <input type="checkbox"/> Burning urination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Premature ejaculation | <input type="checkbox"/> Decreased libido | <input type="checkbox"/> Prostatitis | <input type="checkbox"/> Dribbling after urination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nocturnal emission | <input type="checkbox"/> Pain in testicles | <input type="checkbox"/> Herpes | <input type="checkbox"/> Infections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Night urination... What time? _____ How often? _____ | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive libido |

Gynecological/Reproductive

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult/Painful intercourse | <input type="checkbox"/> Ovarian cysts | <input type="checkbox"/> Age of first menses _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal dryness | <input type="checkbox"/> Endometriosis | <input type="checkbox"/> Date of last menses _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal sores | <input type="checkbox"/> Uterine Fibroids | <input type="checkbox"/> Date of last PAP/Pelvic _____ |

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal discharge | <input type="checkbox"/> Fibrocystic breast tissue | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of pregnancies _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infertility | <input type="checkbox"/> Polycystic Ovarian Disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of ectopic pregnancies _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irregular menstruation | <input type="checkbox"/> PMS | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of live births _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Painful menstruation | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of miscarriages _____ |
| Do you practice birth control? _____ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Number of abortions _____ |
| What type? _____ How long? _____ | | |

Musculoskeletal

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neck pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand/wrist pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpal Tunnel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knee pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Sprains/Strains | <input type="checkbox"/> Sciatica | <input type="checkbox"/> Foot/ankle pain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hip pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle pain | <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle weakness | <input type="checkbox"/> Tendonitis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Back pain Low___ Middle___ Upper___ | <input type="checkbox"/> Bursitis | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotator Cuff | |

Neuropsychological

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures | <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of balance | <input type="checkbox"/> Vertigo/Dizziness | <input type="checkbox"/> Areas of numbness |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety/Panic attacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Bad temper | <input type="checkbox"/> Easily susceptible to stress | <input type="checkbox"/> Seasonal Affective Disorder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nervousness | <input type="checkbox"/> ADD/ADHD | <input type="checkbox"/> Manic Depression | <input type="checkbox"/> Irritable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Numbness | <input type="checkbox"/> Tics | | |

Have you ever been treated for emotional problems? _____, Substance Abuse? _____, Suicide? _____

Patient Notification of Qualifications, Scope of Practice & Treatment Consent Form

WA state law requires the East Asian medicine practitioners to inform the public of the practitioners' scope of practice and qualifications. (18.06.130 RCW) The practitioner must give it to each patient in writing prior to or at the time of the initial patient visit. (246-803-300 WAC).

Our qualifications include the following education and license information:

Roxane Geller: 2001, EAMP, Bastyr University. License: AC 1869

Victoria Summerquist: 2001, EAMP, Bastyr University. License: AC 0798

Kate Chilson: 2003, EAMP Northwest Institute of Oriental Medicine. License: AC 2310

Samara White, EAMP, Seattle Institute of Oriental Medicine License AC 60503724

The **scope of practice** for an East Asian medicine practitioner in the state of Washington includes the following: (a) Acupuncture, including the use of acupuncture needles or lancets to directly or indirectly stimulate acupuncture points and meridians; (b) of electrical, mechanical, or magnetic devices to stimulate acupuncture points and meridians; (c) Moxibustion; (d) Acupressure; (e) Cupping; (f) Dermal friction technique; (g) Infra-red; (h) Sonopuncture; i) Laserpuncture; j) Point injection therapy (aquapuncture); and (k) Dietary advice and health education based on East Asian medical theory, including the recommendation and sale of herbs, vitamins, minerals, and dietary and nutritional supplements; (l) Breathing, relaxation, and East Asian exercise techniques; (m) Qi gong; (n) East Asian massage and Tui na, which is a method of East Asian bodywork, characterized by the kneading, pressing, rolling, shaking, and stretching of the body and does not include spinal manipulation; and (o) Superficial heat and cold therapies.

The patient must inform the East Asian medicine practitioner if the patient has a severe bleeding disorder, is pregnant, or has a pace maker prior to any treatment.

Potential risks include, but not limited to, temporary pain, bruising, swelling, bleeding, numbness and tingling, and soreness at the needling site that may last a few days. Unusual risks of acupuncture include broken needle, dizziness, fainting or nerve damage. Infection is possible, although the clinic uses alcohol and sterile disposable needles and maintains a safe and clean environment. Potential risks of moxibustion health therapy are burns, blistering, or scarring. Temporary bruising, redness, or blistering, lasting a few days is a common side effect of cupping and gua sha, or spooning. I fully

understand that there is no implied or stated guarantee of success or effectiveness of a specific treatment or series of treatments.

I will notify the acupuncturist should I become **pregnant** or if I am in the process of trying to get pregnant so that my practitioner can avoid points and herbs that could induce miscarriage. I understand that herbal and nutritional supplements recommended to me by my acupuncturist are safe in the recommended doses. Large doses of herbs taken without my practitioner's recommendation may be toxic, and some herbs are inappropriate during pregnancy. Some possible side effects of herbs are nausea, gas, stomachache, vomiting, headache, diarrhea, rashes, hives and tingling of the tongue. I understand that I must stop taking any herbs and notify my acupuncturist as soon as I experience any discomfort or adverse reactions.

I understand that my acupuncturist may review my medical records and lab reports, but all my records will be kept confidential. If it becomes necessary to share my health information, this will be handled in accordance with the stipulations detailed in the Notice of Privacy Practices document that has been provided to me, and of which I have acknowledged receipt.

I have been informed that I have a right to refuse any form of treatment. I have read, or have had read to me the above consent. I have also had an opportunity to ask questions about its content, and by signing below I agree to the above-named procedures. I also understand there is always a possibility of an unexpected complication and I understand that no guarantee can be made concerning the results of treatment. I intend this consent form to cover the entire course of treatment for my present condition and for any future condition(s) for which I seek treatment. _____ **(initial)**

Printed Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____
(Of patient, parent or representative)

HIPAA Privacy Practices Acknowledgement Form

Due to new HIPAA compliance statutes, we as a healthcare provider are required to provide you with a Notice of Privacy Practices that describes your rights as a patient and must document that every patient or client has read and received it. The form is found on our website and is available at our center for you to read and take home with you.

By Signing below, I acknowledge the receipt of the Notice of Privacy Practices at Union Center For Healing Integral, PLLC.

Printed Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____
(Of patient, parent or representative)

Communication Consent

We are required (UCFH and the individual provider) to have your consent to communicate via Email, Fullslate (online scheduling) and Text. At this time the emails, text and Fullslate are not encrypted. We are able to communicate with you by each of these forms but need your consent to do so. If you have sensitive health care information you wish to share through email, contact your provider first so we can send an encrypted message.

I consent to communicate by email, text, and Fullslate: Yes _____ No _____

Late Cancellation & Missed Appointment Agreement

Please provide 24 hours advance notice of any changes or cancellations.

Appointments that are missed/rescheduled/cancelled with less than 24 hours notice will be billed \$40.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Insurance Information

Coverage is not guaranteed and needs to be verified with your health plan. Although acupuncture is generally a covered service, it is only covered for certain conditions. Most plans require a prescription for massage.

Name _____ Date of birth _____
 Employer _____ Single ____ Married ____

PRIMARY INSURANCE: Insurance Name: _____
 Subscriber ID #(include letters) _____ Group # _____
 Relationship to insured: Self ____ Spouse/DP ____ Child ____ Other _____

PLEASE FILL OUT INFORMATION BELOW IF YOU DID NOT CHECK SELF:
 Name on plan if not self _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address (if other than yours) _____
 Employer _____ Phone # _____

If your primary insurance does not cover acupuncture or massage but you have secondary insurance that does. We will be glad to provide you with a superbill for you to submit for reimbursement from your insurance company.

MOTOR VEHICLE (PIP) OR L & I:
 Claim # _____ Company Name _____
 Billing Address: _____
 Contact Name _____ Phone number _____
 Date of Injury _____ Name of insured _____
 Attorney Name, Address and Phone _____

PLEASE READ AND SIGN:

In the event that my insurance coverage expires or denies payment, I understand that I am personally, fully responsible for all fees incurred. I agree to release any medical information my insurance company, adjustor, or the attorney involved in my case may need in order to process payment. I assign some benefits to be paid to the above named provider.

Signature _____ Date _____

Insurance and Payment Information - FOR YOU TO KEEP, PLEASE READ

We want you to experience your time here with minimal effort. The following information will help you become familiar with the insurance process, including billing, copays, contracted rates and statements from Union Center for Healing and Nightingale Billing Service.

If you have any questions about your statements please contact Nightingale Billing at alan@nightingalebilling.com or call [206-508-0330](tel:206-508-0330).

YOUR PART:

- Confirm that your insurance covers Acupuncture or Massage, and if you need to obtain any physician referral or prescription prior to your first appointment. An insurance benefit verification form is provided on our website for your convenience.
- Confirm that your insurance plan covers the condition(s) or diagnosis for which you would like to be seen; most plans only cover certain conditions.
- Confirm the number of appointments your insurance plan allows. Keep track of this number.
- Please know the contract is between you and your insurance carrier and you are fully responsible for any amount that they do not pay. Our office does not guarantee that your insurance will pay.

MASSAGE: Prescriptions are needed for massage prior to the first date of service. Insurance will not cover visits without a prescription. **The following information is required on the prescription:** Start and end dates, diagnoses, number of visits, provider or clinic name, and your provider's name. Please note that most plans only cover specific pain related conditions. Find out what is covered under your plan to be sure the condition you want treated is covered.

CO-PAYS: If you have a co-pay (indicated on your card) you can pay it at the time of your appointment or every 2-4 appointments. We accept Cash, Check and Credit Cards. Any co-pays not collected at the time of service will be billed to the address you provide.

BILLING: We use a third party biller, **Nightingale Billing**, to process claims and payments. Claims are sent to your insurance company every week and are usually processed by the insurance company within 9-30 days. Since we are contracted with your plan, we agree to be paid the contracted rate, which is a set amount. Your financial obligation is the copay, or co-insurance (a percentage), or deductible. If you are paying towards your deductible, you are only responsible for the contracted rate. **Codes billed:** There are only a few codes that we use for acupuncture. On your first visit you will see a first office visit code (99201-99203) and the standard two codes used for a typical acupuncture treatment, 97810/97811 or 97813/97814. On some return visits you may see 99212 which indicates a new condition or further evaluation. Massage is coded 97124 or 97140.

STATEMENTS: Statements are mailed monthly every 4 weeks for balances due. These balances include deductibles, copays, co-insurances, or any balances unpaid by the insurance. The statements will only include balances due once the insurance has been processed.

PAYMENTS: You may pay your balance with cash, check or credit card. You can mail it, bring it in with you to your next appointment, or pay through Paypal on our website. Nightingale can provide you with a receipt summary of your visits for you FSA plan.

Patient Handout to Keep-Your First Visit

Your first visit will last approximately 90-120 minutes. We will discuss, in detail, your concerns and goals great and small. Since Chinese medicine is a holistic practice, we will ask about the well-being of the different parts of you. After we discuss your concerns, we will feel your pulse, look at your tongue, and perhaps palpate on your abdomen. The pulse, in Chinese medicine, helps tell us about the energy flow in your body. If you are coming in for a pain condition, we may do a little massage, cupping, or moxibustion, in addition to the acupuncture.

Please be sure that you are not hungry when you come in. Try to eat 1-2 hours before receiving acupuncture. If you can, wear loose, comfortable clothing.

All return visits last 50-60 minutes. We will check in to see how you are doing and then you will receive a treatment.

If you have any questions or concerns please just let us know. Acupuncture is generally very relaxing and gives you a feeling a calm. Enjoy!

What Is Acupuncture?

Chinese medicine is an ancient healing art that has been practiced in China for over 2,500 years. Chinese medicine includes acupuncture, moxibustion, Chinese herbal therapy, dietary recommendations, tui-na (massage), cupping, and lifestyle counseling. Acupuncture is the insertion of fine needles into an acupuncture point along an energetic pathway on the body. The function of acupuncture is to regulate and balance the flow of vital energy (Qi) and blood in the body to harmonize the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health of an individual.

A practitioner of Chinese medicine diagnoses by examining the relative harmony within the body, mind and spirit. Diagnosis is made by examining how the organs are working on its own and relative to one another. Chinese medicine has evolved from its inception thousands of years ago prior to the modern invention of microscopes and the discovery of cells or the understanding of anatomical structure and physiological processes. Its theories are based on observations in nature and the cycles of life. The practitioner discusses signs and symptoms with the patient, areas of excess and deficiency in the organ system, looks for areas of heat and cold, and evaluates the body fluids.

In modern terms, acupuncture has been shown to stimulate our body's own healing system. Many modern health concerns such as chronic pain, chronic immune dysfunction, endocrine dysfunction and pain may be caused by the breakdown of the body's ability to function. This may happen through poor lifestyle choices, environmental factors, stress, and infection. Acupuncture has been shown to stimulate the body's own healing system to help fight the imbalance. For example, acupuncture stimulates the nervous system which in turn stimulates areas of the brain, spinal cord and muscles to mitigate the pain pathway, the release of hormones or other chemicals in the body to promote healing and balance.

The World Health Organization recognizes over 40 conditions where acupuncture is considered an appropriate treatment. Chinese medicine can strengthen the immune system, increase circulation, regulate hormones, increase energy and reduce stress.

Components of Chinese medicine

- Treating the body, mind and spirit as one, treating the whole individual.
- Treating the root cause of the disease to stimulate the body's own natural healing systems.
- Promoting the maximum potential for health and well-being of the individual through lifestyle counseling and planning.

Training and Licensure

Acupuncturists in California have been licensed since 1976. Standards of practice are governed by the NCCAOM. In Washington State, practitioners earn a Master's degree with over 3,000 hours of training.