

PA02 Acupuncture for Pain Management Prior Approval Policy

Pathway	
	Acupuncture for pain management.
Exclusions	
	Palliative care patients.
Commissioned	
	<p>Acupuncture for chronic tension-type and migraine headaches will be funded if ALL the following criteria are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medicines management as advised by NICE was ineffective or unsuitable; 2. NHS funded acupuncture has not previously been provided; 3. Treatment is provided as an adjunct to pain management through local specialist pain clinics; 4. The maximum number of sessions is 8 and this is understood by the patient.
Not Funded	
	<p>Acupuncture will not be funded for conditions where NICE found no evidence of benefit, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low back pain 2. Tennis elbow 3. Osteoarthritis 4. Fibromyalgia
Notes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For patients with migraine evidence is required that prophylaxis with topiramate and propranolol was either not effective or contraindicated. ▪ Patients should not be referred to providers specifically for acupuncture therapy. ▪ After the first 4 sessions, an evaluation should be undertaken, and continued funding of the remaining 4 sessions will depend on evidence of benefit from acupuncture.
Rationale	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy based on <i>Headaches in over 12s: diagnosis and management NICE CG150 Updated Nov 2015</i> ▪ NICE suggests that the number of acupuncture sessions provided for the treatment of headaches is limited and Northamptonshire CCG believe that a maximum of 8 sessions is appropriate.
Cohort	
	Adults and Children over 12 years.
Equality	
	Compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
Status	
	AMBER as defined in the Prior Approval Scheme Policy.

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OPCS codes	
Electroacupuncture	A70.5
Acupuncture NEC	A70.6
With condition code:	
Migraine	G43%
Tension-type headache	G42.2%
Version History	
No material changes from previous version.	
Authorised	
April 2019	
Review	
April 2024 Earlier if new evidence published by NICE or other authoritative body.	