

ATMS Modality:

Acupuncture

Definition of Treatment

Acupuncture involves the use of thin solid metal needles which are inserted in the body at very specific points. A major concept of TCM (and Acupuncture) is the notion that a vital energy or life force called Qi circulates throughout the body via a system of pathways known as meridians. There are a total of 20 meridians: 12 primary meridians, which correspond to specific organs, organ systems or functions, and eight secondary meridians. Imbalances or disharmony in the flow of Qi is seen to cause illness; correcting the flow of this vital energy with Acupuncture restores the body to balance and maintains the health of this unique system.

The assessment must include the development of a specific treatment plan as to the best course of treatment for the patient's condition/injury. This treatment plan forms the basis of the clinical notes. These notes must be consistent with the ATMS Code of Conduct, AHPRA requirements and the additional requirements set by the health funds.



Health Fund	Educational Requirements	Provider Number
Australian Health Management	Completed a 4 year full time or equivalent (approx. 2,000 hours) Advanced Diploma or Bachelor Degree course. Qualifications completed by correspondence only and/or the clinical training not supervised will NOT be recognised. If practitioner holds overseas qualifications, they must at least equate to the required Australian qualifications Must also hold current practising national registration	Names of eligible ATMS members will be sent to AHM each month. Your ATMS Number will be your provider number, unless you wish to have online claiming. You will then need to contact AHM directly for the new provider number.
Australian Regional Health Group (ARHG)	Completed an Australian RTO Advanced Diploma or TEQSA approved Bachelor Degree course in Acupuncture / Traditional Chinese Medicine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must contain at least 200 hours of practical training included in the course before graduation. • Distance, online, virtual and other off-campus studies will not be recognised unless the following is completed on campus in face to face mode: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Practical components of all health science subjects which require skills based knowledge e.g. surface anatomy and palpation ○ Practical components of course modality specific subjects which require skills based knowledge e.g. case taking and clinical examination, assessment of conditions, treatment plans, therapeutics, tactile therapies, massage techniques and other associated therapeutics and techniques. ○ All student clinical practicum hours must be completed at the educational institutions on campus clinic facilities and cannot be outsourced to private clinics. ○ All examinations, tests and assessment of competency to be undertaken and marked by qualified staff on campus ○ Excluding clinical training units which must be completed on campus, at least 50% of remaining course units must be delivered physically on campus in face to face mode. • Practitioners who received their training prior to March 2002 will be accepted by ARHG if they can demonstrate that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They received (or upgraded) their qualifications in Australia ○ They have been in practice for at least the last four (4) years and ○ They have undertaken CPE, as per the membership requirements of their association, for a minimum four (4) year period. Must hold current practising national registration Does not accept overseas qualifications.	Details of eligible members, including member updates are sent to ARHG by ATMS monthly. The ARHG provider number is based on your ATMS number with additional lettering. To work out your ARHG provider number please follow these steps: 1 Add the letters AT to the front of your ATMS member number 2 If your ATMS number has five digits go to step 3. If it has two, three or four digits, you need to add enough zeros to the front to make it a five digit number (e.g. 123 becomes 00123). 3 Add the letter that corresponds to your accredited modality at the end of the provider number; A Acupuncture, If ATMS member 123 is accredited in Acupuncture, the ARHG provider number will be AT00123A.

Acupuncture Health Fund Requirements cont.

Health Fund	Educational Requirements	Provider Number
Australian Unity	Completed an Australian RTO Advanced Diploma or TEQSA approved Bachelor Degree course. Must hold current practising national registration	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to Australian Unity each month. ATMS members will need to contact Australian Unity on 1800 035 360 to register as a provider, after filling out the Australian Unity Application Form located on the ATMS website to activate their provider status. This only needs to happen the first time. Your ATMS number can be used as your Provider Number, or you can contact Australian Unity for your Australian Unity generated Provider Number.
BUPA	Completed, as a minimum, a 4 year full time or equivalent, Australian Bachelor Degree majoring in Acupuncture. Any educational qualifications substantially attained by distance/online/external mode will not be recognised. For overseas graduates, the qualifications must be at least equivalent to an Australian bachelor degree. All degree programs must conform to the current Australian Guidelines for Traditional Chinese Medicine Education, especially with regard to curriculum content, overall duration of the course, mode of delivery, and extent of supervised clinical practice. Must also be independently validated and assessed by VETASSESS or by the relevant Overseas Qualifications Unit (OQU). Applicants who completed their studies in a non-English language must supply evidence of their fluency in English. BUPA requires an IELTS Overall Band 6 or equivalent as evidence of this. Must also hold current practicing national registration.	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to BUPA on a weekly basis. BUPA will generate a Provider Number after receiving the list of eligible practitioners. BUPA advises ATMS of your Provider Number and ATMS will then advise those members directly.
CBHS Health Fund	Meets ATMS requirements. Must also hold current national registration Does not accept overseas gained qualifications	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to CBHS each month. Your ATMS number will be your Provider Number.

Health Fund	Educational Requirements	Provider Number
Grand United	Practitioners need to apply directly and can contact health fund on 1800 249 966.	
HCF	Completion of an Australian Bachelor Degree majoring in Acupuncture. If practitioner holds overseas bachelor qualifications, they must at least equate to the required Australian bachelor degree qualifications including overall duration of the programme, content, and clinical practice. The course has not been substantially delivered via distance/external/on-line mode AND includes an appropriate level of supervised clinical practice Must also hold current practicing national registration.	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to HCF on a weekly basis. Your ATMS number will be your Provider Number.
Medibank Private	Completed a 4 year full time or equivalent (approx. 2,000 hours) Advanced Diploma or Bachelor Degree course. Qualifications completed by correspondence only and/or the clinical training not supervised will NOT be recognised. If practitioner holds overseas qualifications, they must at least equate to the required Australian qualifications Must also hold current practising national registration.	Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to Medibank Private on a monthly basis. Medibank Private generates Provider Numbers after receiving the list of eligible practitioners from ATMS. Medibank Private sends these provider numbers directly to your clinic address/es.

<p>NIB</p>	<p>Completion of an Australian Advanced Diploma of Acupuncture; Health Science (Acupuncture) or Traditional Chinese Medicine or Bachelor of Health Science (Acupuncture or Chinese Medicine); Applied Science (Chinese Medicine) or Chinese Medicine (Acupuncture & Herbs) or Master of Applied Science (Acupuncture) Holds current national registration</p>	<p>Names and details of eligible ATMS members will be sent to NIB on a weekly basis. Your ATMS Number will be your provider number, unless your client wishes to claim online. Your client will need to contact NIB directly or search by your surname and postcode on the NIB website www.nib.com.au for your provider number for online claiming purposes.</p>
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