



# NH Acupuncture & Asian Medicine Association

*A Voice for Asian Medicine in the Granite State*

Greetings,

This statement concerns the adoption of acupuncture coverage by the Medicare and Tricare insurance programs. Over the past 15 years, public and scientific interest in acupuncture has grown enormously. With that has come the scientific recognition that acupuncture is an effective treatment for many types of acute & chronic pain, among many other conditions, and public demand in accessing this medicine has skyrocketed. Many insurance companies are now including acupuncture among their covered services and helping to make this form of medicine available to those who could not otherwise afford it.

Two insurance carriers that lag behind in this regard are Medicare and Tricare. Both of these insurance providers cover a large number of people, many of whom are either elderly or have seen active duty. The health problems most often experienced by these two populations is chronic pain management and anxiety relief - problems well understood to be treated by acupuncture. However, lack of coverage for acupuncture by Medicare and Tricare prevents many of these people from obtaining the help they need.

It is the current position of the New Hampshire Acupuncture & Asian Medicine Association that acupuncture should be a covered service by both Medicare and Tricare, both for the benefit of its covered persons and to ensure that these insurance providers continue to provide the most up-to-date and cost effective forms of medical care.

Mark Evans

President, New Hampshire Acupuncture and Asian Medicine Association