

Evaluation and Management for Licensed Acupuncturists

**Working Version
NOT READY FOR DISTRIBUTION**

As with other Qualified Healthcare Providers who independently evaluate and treat patients, the primary purpose of E/M time is for evaluation and medical decision making. As acupuncture practice typically involves insertion of sterile medical devices into patients bodies, it would be quite inappropriate for a provider to perform these services without a thorough review of systems, history, medications and supplements, and lifestyle and social factors. This will typically involve a low to moderate level of medical decision making.

This may involve the decision to provide a single treatment that day, or to setup a course of follow-up treatments where the performance of E/M is not expected. E/M would then be expected to be performed again after and appropriate interval, number of subsequent treatments or change in reported symptoms.

Review of Systems

The review of systems performed by an LAC is typically detailed and extensive, and is quite similar to a PCP. While it does include screening for conventionally defined medical issues and emergencies, it also serves other purposes as well. Traditional Chinese and Asian medicine treatments are based on groups of related symptoms, as derived from our long clinical history. For example, inflammation may be considered due to external pathogens or toxins, but malnutrition of particular foods or nutrients is as common a cause. Where there is typically no direct mechanism for inflammation due to nutrient status in conventional medicine.

Social and Emotional/Psychological Factors

Within the E/M time of an LAC, much attention is paid to patients social and psychological status. This is similar to the more “patient centric” models of care such as in family medicine, or the training a DO or APRN receives vs the medical doctor model.

Coordination of Care

Though not always recognized as “primary care providers” in the US, LACs often become the defacto PCP, often for patients who have become estranged from or confused about their need for conventional care.

Nutrition and Behavioral Health Counseling

As with other QHPs, it is sometimes appropriate to perform some occasional nutrition counseling or Emotional/Behavioral Health Counseling as part of E/M time. This might be due to recent or expected circumstances that were not already considered in the treatment plan.

LACs in the US typically do not prescribe, though In China western medicines are frequently combined with TCM.

Code	Description