

# Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology

## GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS COMMUNIQUE

### Important Information

#### *Regulation of Acupuncture in Ontario* **How the new rules impact claims**

Effective April 1, 2013, the Transitional Council of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (the College) published a list of practitioners who are recognized as meeting the regulatory requirement for practicing acupuncture in Ontario.

You can view this list on their website at [www.ctcmpao.on.ca](http://www.ctcmpao.on.ca)

Only those acupuncturists who appear on the list will be considered eligible providers for claim reimbursement in Ontario.

It is important to note that even though past claims from an acupuncturist may have been covered, future claims from the same practitioner will be declined if the acupuncturist is not registered and recognized by the College.

If you receive treatment from an acupuncturist in Ontario on or after April 1, 2013, please check with your provider to see if they are registered with the College in their province.

#### *Acupuncture services provided by other paramedical practitioners may be affected*

Sun Life has not changed how they administer claims for acupuncture. What has changed is that acupuncturists are regulated and "acupuncturist" is now a restricted title in Ontario. The College has made it very clear what the rules, regulations and restrictions are should a person who is licensed in another profession wish to practice acupuncture as an acupuncturist. In short, they must be registered with the College.

There may be other paramedical practitioners who have the credentials to perform acupuncture within the scope of their primary "health profession" e.g. Chiropractors, who are not required to be registered as an acupuncturist. As such, any acupuncture treatment that they perform is within the scope of their Chiropractor license and is therefore treated as a chiropractic service and not acupuncture. If the acupuncture treatment is billed separately, by the chiropractor who is not registered as an acupuncturist, some or all of the acupuncture expense may be declined.