

# Guidance

## Acupuncture for Induction of Labour:

Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture

April 1, 2026



Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture licensees must practice within their scope of practice (see [Scope of Practice Explanatory Statement: Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture](#)), personal competence and adhere to all [Professional Standards](#) and relevant [Clinical Practice Standards](#) when providing care including following directives outlined in guidance documents.

[Professional Standard: Scope of Practice](#), Principles 1.1 and 1.2 state licensees must:

- 1.1 Maintain awareness of their scope of practice, including by reviewing and staying current with the Regulation, College standards, directives, and guidance documents.*
- 1.2 Only provide care within their scope of practice, as defined by the Regulation (including limits and conditions set out in the Regulation), College standards, directives or guidance documents.*

Licensees authorized to perform acupuncture may provide acupuncture treatment for the purpose of inducing labour; however, it is outside the scope of practice for licensees to manage labour itself.

## Guidance

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Acupuncture inductions should not be provided more than 72 hours before a known medical induction unless the licensee has received confirmation that the primary birth attendant (e.g. obstetrician, midwife, medical doctor) has recommended acupuncture induction for the patient.

Prior to treatment, licensees performing acupuncture to induce labour must:

### 1. Verify and document into the patient's health care record:

- The name of the primary birth attendant responsible for the patient (e.g. obstetrician, midwife, general practitioner);
- The estimated date of delivery and date of scheduled induction (if applicable)



- Relevant medical history including history of previous pregnancies and/or complications
- Engagement and presentation of the foetus
- Plans for other inducement tools (e.g. cervical sweep, castor oil or lemon verbena, etc.)

## **2. Obtain separate written and signed consent from the patient that includes:**

- The patient's name;
- The date;
- Description of the treatment;
- The rationale for performing the treatment; and
- The name of the licensee providing treatment.

### **Twins**

Acupuncture induction may only be administered if:

- The patient meets all general induction qualifications and baby “A” is in a cephalic presentation
- Written confirmation of vaginal birth and positioning of babies from the patient's primary birth attendant is provided.

### **Breech**

All non-frank breeches are contraindicated for induction unless there is a written request by the primary birth attendant.

Frank breech induction may only be administered if the patient meets all general induction qualifications.



## Vaginal birth after caesarean section (VBAC)

Licensees treating patients with a previous history of caesarean section must have the prior consent (verbal or written) from the primary birth attendant, confirming that the patient is eligible for a vaginal birth.

## Application to Professional Standard: Scope of Practice

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Licensees must ensure they have the appropriate **additional training** as defined in the [Professional Standard: Scope of Practice](#), and competence to deliver care within their scope of practice, and must comply with all professional and applicable clinical practice standards.