

# Changes to Use of Title: Acupuncturist

The Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Act, 2006 establishes the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario as a self-governing regulatory body under the Regulated Health Professions Act. As such, the title “acupuncturist” becomes a protected title for registrants of the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Acupuncturists of Ontario (CTCMPAO) in the same way the title “physiotherapist” is protected for registrants of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario. These changes mean that physiotherapists are no longer permitted to call themselves acupuncturists unless they are also registered with CTCMPAO.

The RHPA and associated profession-specific acts restrict anyone other than a registrant of a particular college from using the title(s) associated with that college. For example, the Physiotherapy Act restricts anyone other than a registrant of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario from using the titles “physiotherapist” and “physical therapist”, or other variations, abbreviations, or equivalent terms in other languages. These restricted titles indicate that the people using them are registered with the College and are able to practise in Ontario.

Physiotherapists will retain the ability to provide acupuncture when it is performed within the scope of practice of physiotherapy and in accordance with the standards of practice of the profession. Please refer to the Standard and Guide for Professional Practice: Performance of Authorized Activities, available in the Registrants’ Guide and on the College website.

## References/Resources/Links

Traditional Chinese Medicine Act: [www.e-laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca)

CTCMPAO website: [www.ctcmpao.on.ca](http://www.ctcmpao.on.ca)

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