

Reasons to Kill HB1360

FEDERAL LAW? Federal law has apparently ruled that acupuncturists cannot obtain these substances for administration and dispensing. What law is this that Colorado is considering countermanding?

PHARMACISTS?: What position does this bill put Colorado pharmacists regarding federal law?

TAXPAYER IMPACT: Under PPACA's non-discrimination provision [42 USC 300gg-5(a)], all services rendered by a state-licensed health care practitioner must be reimbursed by 3rd party payers.

NOT "HOUSEKEEPING" MEASURE: Colorado law explicitly limits the scope of acupuncture to non-medical practices. **The Director of DORA clearly had overstepped law unilaterally to declare injection therapy part of acupuncture.** This is a issue that deserves more attention than a late bill rushed through the legislature with minimal oversight and consideration.

The words "inject," "vitamin," "Sarapin," "epinephrine," and "homeopathic" do not appear in either the "Rules and Regulations governing Acupuncture" (2011) or the "Colorado Revised Statute for Acupuncture" (effective 1 July 2013). The latter states:

3.5)(a) "Practice of acupuncture" means the insertion and removal of acupuncture needles, the application of heat therapies to specific areas of the human body, and adjunctive therapies. Adjunctive therapies within the scope of acupuncture may include manual, mechanical, thermal, electrical, and electromagnetic treatment; the recommendation of therapeutic exercises; and, subject to federal law, the recommendation of herbs and dietary guidelines. The "practice of acupuncture" is based upon traditional and modern oriental medical concepts and does not include the utilization of western medical diagnostic tests and procedures, such as magnetic resonance imaging, radiographs (X rays), computerized tomography scans, and ultrasound.

(b) Nothing in this article authorizes an acupuncturist to perform the practice of medicine; surgery; spinal adjustment, manipulation, or mobilization; or any other form of healing ***except as authorized by this article.***

RUSH JOB: This late bill is pre-empting the role of the sunset review. This issue could have been addressed, with due consideration, in the last sunset review only two years ago.

OTHER STATES: All states and WashDC license acupuncturists, but ***only five states*** currently allow acupuncturists to inject substances (FL, NM, SC, WA, WV). ***Arkansas repealed this privilege and California expressly forbids it.***

CAN AN ACUPUNCTURIST GIVE INJECTIONS OF ANY KIND?

No. Never. Acupuncturists cannot give injections, pursuant to **California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 1399.451(f).**

"INJECTION THERAPY" IS NOT ACUPUNCTURE. Injection of substances into the body is not considered acupuncture. Injecting B12, lidocaine, homeopathics, etc. into acupuncture points are fad practice – off-label use for balancing yin/yang.

NO SPECIFICS: Size of needles? IV? IM? SubQ? Intradermal? Quantity of fluid injected?

DANGEROUS: Acupuncturists claim they inject minute amounts of substances, but their "injection therapy" websites indicates that anywhere from 1 to ***5cc (!)*** of substance are injected into sites,

sometimes daily and in areas unlikely to tolerate even small quantities, such as the frenulum (between nose and lip).

Medical guidelines: 0.5-1cc SQ, 1cc max deltoid and 2cc max in the *vastus lateralis* (thigh) and 3cc maximum in the *gluteus maximus*. (Larger amounts require larger muscle mass). Injections of 4-5cc are rare. Those doses are split because an injection of that high volume is painful, takes longer to absorb, and could cause an abscess.

MORE UNKNOWN: There are some 13,000 "Oriental herbs" used, some contaminated with heavy metals and most considered pseudoscience (*Nature*, 2007).

NOT JUST HERBS. Chinese herbology is misleading; it includes minerals, plus animal and human substances, such as dandruff, ear wax, urine, feces, bone, the plaque on teeth, sweat, blood, etc.

EXAMPLES OF THIS PRACTICE: [Source: <http://pointinjection.com>]

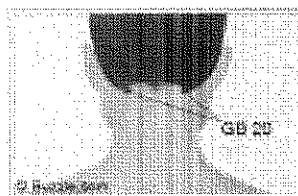
FOR STROKE:

"Hemiplegia (late stage):100 mg. of Vitamin B, + 50 mg. of nicotinamide into **GB 20 Fengchi** on the affected side."



FOR COLDS AND FLU:

"3 - 5 cc of vitamin B1 is injected into each point....POINTS: **GB 20 Fengchi**...both points are needed bilaterally."



FOR HEMORRHOIDS: "Points: Both sides of the frenulum in the upper lip. Prescription: 1 cc. of 1% procaine is injected on either side. Treat once a day."

ENDANGERS SPECIES: Acupuncturists' use of Oriental Medicine has endangered American ginseng, sea horses, and rhino horn. Black bears have been cruelly farmed for their bile.

NO INFORMED CONSENT: Patients get fanciful explanations from practitioners who see the world through the lens of Eastern Mysticism. Acupuncturists use unintelligible terms to describe illness: "Wind, Cold, Summer Heat, Internal vs External Damp, Dryness, Yin Fluid, Six Qi, Fire," etc.

NOT BENEFICIAL: There is no proof that acupuncture points or meridians exist. No two acupuncturists will agree on the location of such a point. Injecting anything into such a point constitutes a potential harm with no established benefit. **Traumeel** is a homeopathic, i.e. it has no active ingredient.

PRESCRIPTION & COMPOUNDING: HOME CHEMISTRY EXPERIMENTATION Sterile water and normal saline for injection requires a prescription. Injecting anything requires education and training; and injecting these substances IM or SQ into "acupuncture points" would constitute off-label use, with the risk of infection and tissue damage. Using these fluids in compounding is a highly risky practice, especially with unregulated imported Oriental "herbals."

B12 – THE FAD "Pick Me Up"

"**A closer look at vitamin injections**" *Science-Based Medicine*, Scott Gavura, RPh, 24 May 2013
There is no question that vitamin injections are popular. But despite all the hype and all the endorsements, there is no credible evidence to suggest that routine vitamin infusions are necessary or offer any meaningful health benefit. <https://www.sciencebasedmedicine.org/a-closer-look-at-vitamin-injections/>

SARAPIN:

*Sarapin is based upon extracts from *Sarracenia purpurea* or the purple pitcher plant, an insectivorous plant native to North America. The plant itself is in decline due to the destruction of its natural habitat and due to over collection.*

In a large double-blind trial with 500 patients Sarapin was no better than a placebo in reducing pain. (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16868612>)

The reason that there are no reports of adverse reactions is likely due to the fact that it has no biological effects.

It sounds likely a totally useless product that could not get passed today's FDA requirements for new drugs. Giving a placebo via injection I would personally consider unethical regardless if it is permitted or not.

John Rising, RPh [COLORADO SPRINGS]

SUGGESTION TO LEGISLATORS:

In recent years, Colorado legislators gradually and haphazardly opened up the practice of medicine to any and all comers. Now, no one knows what is permitted or not, least of all consumers. Isn't it time legislators got to their goal in a more direct fashion and one that will serve to protect the public?

Currently, the legislature has, bill by bill, given its imprimatur to a patchwork of unvalidated and mystical practices as safe and beneficial, leading ultimately to taxpayer support and insurance mandates, but no consumer protection.

It would be easier on everyone in Colorado that you repealed the crime of the unlicensed practice of medicine. By going to a non-system of "buyer beware", at least consumers would stop relying on the State for valid research information and allow insurance companies, through their premiums, determine who makes good choices and who does not.

There is realistic alternative: It starts with killing both HB1352 and HB1360 and any other bill that nibbles away at reasonable regulation.