



Learn from
real cases

Conduct Corner Series

CASE STUDY #3



SITUATION

The College has been receiving an increasing number of calls and emails about acupuncturists inadvertently leaving needles in patients and/or not properly disposing of used needles.

CONSEQUENCE

These concerns not only pose significant risks to patient safety, but also erode the trust patients place in the acupuncture profession, ultimately diminishing the integrity of the industry.

WHAT ACUPUNCTURISTS CAN LEARN FROM THIS CASE

To prevent such incidents, acupuncturists should adopt a systematic approach. This includes counting and documenting the number of needles inserted and withdrawn to ensure these numbers match, and then properly discarding the needles. Consistently implementing this practice can significantly enhance patient safety.

WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

Take some time and revisit the [Standards of Competency and Practice](#), particularly focusing on needle cleanliness standards. This provides essential information crucial for effective and safe practice of acupuncture.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT TRANSPARENCY

Disciplinary Decisions are available on the College's [website](#).