



**GET THE
FACTS**

Title Designations



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Who Authorizes Protected Titles?

Regulatory bodies are the only entities that can authorize the use of a protected title.

Who Cannot Authorize Protected Titles?

No organization outside of this College can certify the ability to use a protected title in the acupuncture profession, this includes schools, associations, institutions that provide continuing education courses, etc.

Multiple Designations

If a member is also registered with another regulatory health profession in Canada, the member may use the protected titles authorized by those Colleges.

If the title is authorized by another jurisdiction (i.e. not Alberta), this must be clearly indicated.

The *Health Professions Act* stipulates that only qualified practitioners who meet the requirements of the College are authorized to use protected titles and designations.

To ensure there is no confusion to the public, members are not permitted to use protected titles outside of those authorized by the College.

PROTECTED TITLES

In Alberta, acupuncturists may use the following titles:

- doctor of acupuncture
- Dr. Ac.
- acupuncturist
- intern acupuncturist
- R. AC
- AC

USE OF TCM

Traditional Chinese Medicine is not regulated in Alberta, so members are not permitted to refer to themselves as a Doctor of TCM (e.g. TCMD, DTCM, Dr.TCM).

As an alternative, a member could include that they have education in herbology in a biography.

USE OF THE DOCTOR TITLE

If a member chooses to use the doctor of acupuncture title, they must specify that they are a doctor of acupuncture. In advertisements (inc. company websites, business cards, letterhead, etc.) acupuncturists must use one of the following:

- Dr. Jane Doe, Doctor of acupuncture
- Dr. Jane Doe, Dr. of Ac.
- Dr. Jane Doe, Dr. Ac.
- Doctor of Acupuncture, Jane Doe
- Dr. of Ac., Jane Doe
- Dr. Ac., Jane Doe
- Jane Doe, Doctor of Acupuncture
- Jane Doe, Dr. of Ac.
- Jane Doe, Dr. Ac.



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Title Designations (cont...)

BIOGRAPHIES

Members may include an accurate description of one’s education, training, and certifications, including those obtained outside of Canada, in a biography or resume.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

For more information on legislation* regarding the use of authorized titles for acupuncturists in Alberta, refer to:

Health Professions Act

- Schedule 1, Section 2 - Use of titles, etc.
- Section 128(7) - Title Protection

Acupuncturists Profession Regulation

- Section 15 - Authorization to use titles, etc.

*As of January, 2024.

EXAMPLES OF IMPROPER USE OF TITLES



Jane Doe, Dr. Ac., TCMP

Protected titles from other jurisdictions in Canada must include an indication of the jurisdiction that authorized the protected title.



Jane Doe, Dr. Ac., TCMP (Ontario)

If an acupuncturist is currently registered in another Canadian jurisdiction, they may include that in their title if they indicate which jurisdiction authorized the protected title.



Jane Doe, Dr. TCM

TCM is not regulated in Alberta, and doctor is a protected title. Members are not permitted to refer to themselves as a doctor of TCM.



Jane Doe, Dr. Ac., MD

Unless a member is registered with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, they are not permitted to use the MD designation.



Jane Doe, Dr. Ac, MD (China)

Even if education was obtained in a different country, members are not permitted to use these designations in Alberta.

However, in a biography, a member could state they have a degree in medicine from China.

If a practitioner is ever in doubt regarding use of titles, they can reach out to the College at 780-466-7787 or info@acupuncturealberta.