



ACUPUNCTURE ASSOCIATION  
*of* COLORADO

**Message from the President**

With all the activity of the holidays and with COVID fatigue, we are trying to keep this newsletter simple for you.

We did increase membership almost 10% this month! So welcome new members. For those who may have let their membership lapse or haven't joined but are thinking about doing so, we hope you consider even during these tough times.

We need member support to ensure we have funds to lobby and influence where we can to work to keep open and get the best scope of practice during our sunset review.

Please look carefully at the upcoming events to help you with your work.

Happy holidays!

Kacey Wardle, L.Ac.  
President, AAC Board of Directors

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## Upcoming Mori West Training

The AAC is very excited to announce an upcoming online seminar with Mori West on **Bulletproof Insurance Billing, Exams and Documentation**.

The seminar will be broken into two sessions. The first session will be Beginning Insurance Billing for Acupuncturists on Saturday, December 12, 2020 9-4:30 (MTN) with a 30 minute lunch break. The cost for session 1 is \$170, with 40% discount to CO/WY association members. The second session will be Bulletproof Exams and Documentation on December 13, 2020 9-4:30 (MTN) with a 30 minute lunch break. The cost for session 2 is \$170, with 40% discount to CO/WY association members. It's not too late to sign up for the seminar. Please visit: <https://acucol.com/event-4033810>

For more info on Mori West, please visit her website:  
<https://www.moriwestseminars.com/>

This seminar provides 16 CEUs approved for both NCCAOM and CA.

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Just a reminder, The ASA and NCCAOM are hosting a townhall about Medicare tonight, Thursday, December 3. You can read more about and register here: <https://www.asacu.org/2020/11/medicare-year-end-update-town-hall-december-3rd/>

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## **Good News on Reimbursement Rates:**

CMS issued its final 2021 Physician Fee Schedule – quickly, here’s CMS’ response to comments about the proposal to crosswalk the two acupuncture codes with the two dry needling codes. CMS did indeed take our responses into consideration:

This starts on page 518:

We received public comments on the codes in the Acupuncture Services family. The following is a summary of the comments we received and our responses.

**Comment:** A few commenters supported the proposed work RVUs assigned to the acupuncture codes and appreciated CMS’ recent coverage determination. The commenters stated that it is important for CMS to provide coverage and adequate reimbursement to a broad array of services that provide non-opioid pain management alternatives.

**Response:** We appreciate the support for our proposals from the commenters.

**Comment:** Many commenters were supportive of the Medicare decision to provide coverage for acupuncture services but disagreed with the proposed valuation crosswalk to two recently reviewed codes in the Dry Needling family. Commenters stated that the dry needling services were not clinically similar to the acupuncture codes as CMS had claimed in the proposed rule, as the dry needling codes do not reflect the training or expertise required to perform an acupuncture treatment. Commenters stated that acupuncture is more physically and mentally intensive than inserting a dry needle into a tender muscle. Commenters stated that the higher skill and knowledge set that is required to perform acupuncture therapy is evidenced in the licensure requirements to perform these services, whereas there are no standardized training curriculums or accreditation programs for dry needling. Commenters stated that the current acupuncture therapy codes are specifically intended to include pre-and post-service intervention assessment/evaluation, as per the CPT guidelines, which is lacking in the dry needling codes. Many commenters stated that if Medicare rates are reduced for acupuncture services then providers of acupuncture services will not be able to afford to treat Medicare beneficiaries and this would create additional barriers to care.

**Response:** We appreciate the detailed feedback from the commenters detailing the differences between acupuncture and dry needling services. After reviewing the comments, we agree that there are significant differences between these services

and it would not be appropriate to use the proposed crosswalk for valuation. Therefore, we are not finalizing our proposal to establish work RVUs for these four acupuncture codes based cross walks to CPT codes 20560 and 20561. We are instead finalizing the current CY 2020 work RVUs of 0.60 for CPT code 97810, 0.50 for CPT code 97811, 0.65 for CPT code 97813, and 0.55 for CPT code 97814. As this valuation is based on a RUC review that took place in 2005, we welcome the prospect of an updated formal review or other new information regarding the valuation of these services for potential future rulemaking.

***Keep it up acupuncture community!***

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## **Board Meeting**

The next Board meeting is this coming Sunday, December 6th at 10 am. The Board meeting will be virtual by Zoom. Please register in advance using this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYud-2qgjGtPj2FoRP4oNOMnt1ckLIL\\_](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYud-2qgjGtPj2FoRP4oNOMnt1ckLIL_)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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## King Sooper's Community Reward Program

Thank you to everyone taking part in the King Sooper's Community Reward Program! Every little bit counts.

If you don't know, you can earn money for the AAC when you use your loyalty card at King Soopers or City Market. You, your family, and your friends can all help raise money for the AAC just by doing the shopping you already do.

Register your rewards card from King Soopers or City Market to the AAC Non-Profit Organization (NPO, number AP717), and the AAC will earn cash for purchases. As you can see above, the AAC has earned over \$400 in the last quarter!

It only takes a few moments to set it up. Here's how:

### Online

- Sign into your Kings Soopers/City Market account. New users please create an account.
- Look for King Soopers Community Rewards (or City Market) selection under the MENU > SAVINGS> KING SOOPERS COMMUNITY REWARDS tab.
- Search for the Acupuncture Association of Colorado either by name or AP717 and click enroll.

### Phone app

- Sign into your Kings Soopers/City Market account on the phone app.
- Tap the 3 bars menu tab on the upper right. Tap Rewards. Tap Community Rewards.
- Follow the instructions for enrollment. Search for the Acupuncture Association of Colorado either by name or AP717 and click enroll.

Easy-peasy. It's free money for the AAC that doesn't cost you anything.

The AAC thanks you!

For any questions contact the AAC at 303.572.8744 or email [info@acucol.com](mailto:info@acucol.com)