

Southpoint Patient Responsibilities

At Southpoint Community Acupuncture, our goal is to make acupuncture available to people who can benefit from it. That's why we charge as little as we possibly can, and we keep our business running because we treat a lot of patients. **Community acupuncture only works because our patients treat the clinic like a shared resource that they care about.** You're not a customer here, you're a participant. Your presence in the treatment room supports other people's healing.

Southpoint runs on co-operation. We need jobs and you need acupuncture. If we co-operate, we believe that we can all get what we need even though none of us have a lot of money. As a Southpoint patient, your responsibility is to give at least 6 hours' notice to cancel an appointment. You must also give the 6 hours' notice to change it to another day. **If you don't show up to your appointment or if you cancel with less than 6 hours' notice, you will need to pay a fee of \$15.** If you have prepaid your treatments as a package, the fee may be collected by deducting a visit from the package.

We have ambient music and white noise machines in the treatment room; you are welcome to bring iPods or other personal listening devices if you prefer your own music or guided meditation. People do snore sometimes, so if snoring bothers you, you should consider bringing an iPod or earphones, or ask for earplugs at the front desk. You are also welcome to bring your own neck pillows or blankets if you prefer them to ours. We won't be offended.

There are different levels of co-operation. At the meta-level, there is **POCA, the People's Organization of Community Acupuncture**, a co-op that we belong to. If you want to help the community acupuncture movement, you can join POCA as a member too. We'd love that. However, you don't have to be a member of POCA to get acupuncture here.

Some people who staff the front desk are POCA co-op member volunteers. They are giving their time so that SCA can continue without having to raise our sliding scale above \$15-\$35. **It is your responsibility to treat our POCA volunteers with patience and respect.** We need you to be nice to them, even if a volunteer makes a mistake or you need to wait longer than you'd like.

Informed Consent for Treatment

Acupuncture involves the insertion of special needles into particular points on the body. The purpose of this treatment is to prevent or reduce pain and to help your body function better. There are some risks to treatment, including bruising of the skin and /or slight bleeding, weakness, fainting and aggravation of symptoms existing prior to acupuncture treatment. There is little risk of infection when all needles are sterile. **Southpoint uses only one-time use, sterile disposable needles. We do not reuse needles,** even at different areas of the body for the same person.

We do not provide primary care or Western (allopathic) medical care. Please see your medical doctor for those services and for routine check-ups. If you are pregnant, have a bleeding disorder, pacemaker, high blood pressure, seizure disorder, local infection or have been prescribed anticoagulant (blood thinning) medications like Coumadin, by signing below you state that you have informed your acupuncturist of such conditions.

By signing this form I understand my responsibilities as a patient and voluntarily give consent for treatment.

Print name _____ Signature _____ Date _____