

WORKING CLASS ACUPUNCTURE

FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

Working Class Acupuncture makes every attempt to make alternative health care, as acupuncture and Chinese medicine, available to as many people as possible, at the most affordable rates.

In respect for our intention to offer high quality health care at affordable prices, we ask for 24 hours notice in advance of an appointment if it is necessary to cancel or reschedule an appointment.

All appointments that are rescheduled or cancelled with less than 24 hour advance notice, and appointments missed without notice, will be charged a \$15 fee. If appointments have been purchased in a package, the missed, cancelled or rescheduled appointment will be deducted from the number of remaining appointments in that package.

Thank you for your understanding,

Working Class Acupuncture Staff

Print Name

Signature of Client/
Person Authorized to Consent

Date

WORKING CLASS ACUPUNCTURE provides high quality acupuncture treatment at affordable rates in a supportive community setting. We practice a style of acupuncture which mostly uses “distal” points in the hands, feet and head to treat problems anywhere in the body – meaning we will probably treat pain in your back by placing tiny needles in your hands. Research in the United States (as well as thousands of years of tradition in Asia) has shown that acupuncture is most effective when it is done frequently and regularly – once a week is usually the minimum required to make progress on any kind of health problem.

Community Fee Structure

There is a one-time \$10 paperwork fee with the first appointment.

Acupuncture appointments are on a sliding scale of \$15 - \$35 per treatment.

You decide what you can afford.

The purpose of our sliding scale is to separate the issues of money and treatment; we want you to come in often enough to really get better and stay better! We understand that everyone’s situation is different, and our primary goal is to make acupuncture available to you as often as you need it.

Acupuncture Clinic Fee Sliding Scale Guideline

Income per year	Initial	Follow Up Visit	2nd Visit within 6 days	Weekly Or less often
20,000 or less	\$30	\$20	\$15	\$20
20,000-25,000	\$30	\$20	\$15	\$20
25,000-30,000	\$35	\$25	\$20	\$25
30,000-40,000	\$35	\$25	\$20	\$25
40,000-50,000	\$40	\$30	\$25	\$30
50,000 or more	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$40

No proof of income is necessary. You choose your category, and that is the fee you will pay. If you income changes, your category can change too.

If the low end is still too high for you, please see me to discuss your options.

Welcome to Our Community!

Please take a minute to read this introduction to our clinic and to our community.
We are delighted that you are interested in joining us!

What is different about the WCA clinic?

We treat in a community setting -

Most US acupuncturists treat patients on tables in individual cubicles. This is not traditional in Asia, where Acupuncture usually occurs in a **community setting**. In our clinic we primarily use **zero-gravity recliners, grouped in a large, quiet, soothing space**. Because we are treating in recliners, we are using Acupuncture points on the extremities and often the head to affect other areas of the body. For example, low back issues will be accessed through specific points on the leg or ankle that affect the area. We ask that you wear loose clothing so you are able to roll up your pants/sleeves to the knees and elbows. **Treating patients in a community setting has many benefits:** it's easy for friends and family members to come in for treatment together; many patients find it comforting; and a collective energetic field becomes established which actually makes individual treatments more powerful. In some styles of Acupuncture, the needles are removed after only a few minutes or after a half hour at most. The style of Acupuncture we practice at WCA allows patients to keep their needles in as long as they want, and the "right" amount of time varies from patient to patient. Most people learn after a few treatments when they feel "done"; this can take from **ten to twenty minutes**, making it a perfect treatment for working people on the go. Many people fall asleep, and wake feeling refreshed after only a short time.

We have a sliding scale -

Most US acupuncturists also see only one patient per hour and charge \$65 to \$175 per treatment. They tend to spend a long time talking with each patient, going over medical records, asking many questions. We don't. The only way that we at WCA can make acupuncture affordable and still make a living ourselves is to streamline our treatments and see multiple patients in an hour, so we have returned to the traditional approach; instead of asking you lots of questions, **we rely on pulse diagnosis to decide how to treat you**. This is exactly how acupuncture is practiced traditionally in Asia -- many patients per hour and very little talking.

Please see the enclosed form that explains our sliding scale. Because we have a sliding scale, **we cannot do insurance billing** (that's the insurance companies' rule). If you have insurance that covers acupuncture, **we'll be happy to give you a payment receipt**, and you can submit it; that's OK with the insurance companies.

Our Commitment to You

We want to make it possible for you to receive Acupuncture regularly enough and long enough to get better and stay better. We want our community to be welcoming to all different kinds of people. We want to give you the tools to take care of your own health so that you will not need to rely on corporations like Big Insurance or Big Pharmaceuticals for costly, high-tech interventions. We will provide a safe environment with skilled practitioners.

What We Need From You

➤ Responsibility

WCA does not provide primary care medicine! Acupuncture is a wonderful complement to Western medicine, but it is not a substitute for it. If you think you have a problem that is not "garden variety" (meaning, you are worried that you might have a serious infection, a malignant growth, or an injury that won't heal), or if you want someone knowledgeable to go over the details of your medical history with you, you need to make a private appointment or see another appropriate primary care physician. You cannot expect us to diagnose and treat something really serious in this format. We *can* provide complementary care for conditions, which require a physician's attention -- for instance, we often treat patients for the side effects of chemotherapy. But we need you to take responsibility for your own health.

WCA does not receive grants, state or federal money, or insurance reimbursement. WCA exists because patients pay for their treatments – it a sustainable community business model.

➤ **Flexibility**

The community setting requires some flexibility from you. For instance, many patients have a favorite recliner. When we are busy, someone may be sitting in yours. Similarly, we have a few patients who snore. Other patients who dislike snoring bring earplugs to their treatments. We are grateful for this! Some of our patients even bring favorite pillows or blankets from home with them, because they prefer theirs to ours. That's fine with us. Basically, we need you to participate in making yourself comfortable in the community room before we arrive to treat you.

In terms of how long you want to stay – in general, **10-20 min. is effective**, but, if you feel 'done', open your eyes and give us a meaningful look -- if your eyes are closed, we think you're asleep and we may not wake you up. **If you need to be somewhere at a certain time** – make a note in the "Special Needs" section of your intake form and we will make every effort to get you out on time.

➤ **Community-Mindedness**

The soothing atmosphere in our clinic exists because all of our patients create it by relaxing together. We appreciate everyone's presence! This kind of collective stillness is a rare and precious thing in our rushed and busy society. Maintaining this reservoir of calm requires that no one talk very much in the clinic space. If you would like to speak to a practitioner one-on-one at any length, please let us know. If you want to have a substantial conversation, we will probably need to schedule that separately and might need to do it by phone.

If you have questions about Acupuncture and how it works there is plenty of information online. Unfortunately, we can't explain what every point does, or how acupuncture works, while we are treating you -- these are very large topics! www.yinyanghouse.com is a good source

Part of our success is that **our patients learn the "routine" and take on a lot of responsibility for the appointments**. Re-scheduling and making payment happens at the front desk BEFORE each treatment, so you can relax and enjoy treatment. Please take all personal belongings, (bags, shoes, etc.) with you back into the treatment room. And of course, **please turn off your cell phone**.

➤ **Commitment**

Acupuncture is a PROCESS. It is very rare for any Acupuncturist to be able to resolve a problem with one treatment. In China, a typical treatment protocol for a chronic condition could be acupuncture every other day for three months! Most of our patients don't need that much Acupuncture, but virtually every patient requires a course of treatment, rather than a single treatment, in order to get what they want from acupuncture.

One big reason that we are able to **keep our prices so low is because of the extraordinary amount of marketing our patients do on our behalf** -- we don't have to advertise. We cannot express how grateful we are for this. Our patients are such effective marketers because they have first-hand experience of how well acupuncture works. All of our satisfied patients basically made a commitment to a course of treatment.

On your first visit, your acupuncturist will suggest a course of treatment, which can be anything from "we'd like to see you once a week for six weeks" to "we'd really like to see you every day for the next four days". This suggestion is based on our experience with treating different kinds of conditions. If you don't come in often enough or long enough, acupuncture probably won't work for you. **The purpose of our sliding scale is to help you make that commitment**. If you have questions about how long it will take to see results, please ask us, or if you think you need to adjust your treatment plan, please let us know. We need you to commit to the process of treatment in order to get good results.

And, last, but not least....enjoy the space. We do, and hope that Working Class Acupuncture can be an important part of your community.

- Thank you, **Working Class Acupuncture Staff**