

Pathway	Acupuncture for pain management.
Exclusions	Palliative care patients.
Commissioned	Acupuncture for chronic tension-type and migraine headaches will be funded if ALL the following criteria are met: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medicines management as advised by NICE was ineffective or unsuitable; 2. NHS funded acupuncture has not previously been provided; 3. Treatment is provided as an adjunct to pain management through local specialist pain clinics; 4. The maximum number of sessions is 8 and this is understood by the patient.
Not Funded	Acupuncture will not be funded for conditions where NICE found no evidence of benefit, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low back pain 2. Tennis elbow 3. Osteoarthritis 4. Fibromyalgia
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For patients with migraine evidence is required that prophylaxis with topiramate and propranolol was either not effective or contraindicated. ▪ Patients should not be referred to providers specifically for acupuncture therapy. ▪ After the first 4 sessions, an evaluation should be undertaken, and continued funding of the remaining 4 sessions will depend on evidence of benefit from acupuncture.
Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy based on <i>Headaches in over 12s: diagnosis and management NICE CG150 Updated Nov 2015</i> ▪ NICE suggests that the number of acupuncture sessions provided for the treatment of headaches is limited and Northamptonshire CCGs believe that a maximum of 8 sessions is appropriate.
Cohort	Adults and Children over 12 years.
Equality	Compliant with the Equality Act 2010.
Status	AMBER as defined in the Prior Approval Scheme Policy.

OPCS codes	
Electroacupuncture	A70.5
Acupuncture NEC	A70.6
With condition code:	
Migraine	G43%
Tension-type headache	G42.2%
Version History	
No material changes from previous version.	
Authorised	
April 2019	
Review	
April 2024 Earlier if new evidence published by NICE or other authoritative body.	