



## **New Wall License FAQ**

New provisions of Business and Professions Code section 4961 went into effect January 1, 2021. Below are responses to frequently asked questions received by the Board.

**1. How is the new Wall License issued after January 1, 2021 different from the old Wall License?** The new Wall License (WL) is issued to a specific place of practice address, displays a unique WL license number, the licensee name and AC license number and the WL expiration date to indicate to the public the licensee has properly registered their place of practice with the Board. This information is also publicly accessible to view using DCA's License Verification search tool.

**2. Will my new wall license have my business name? What if I work in somebody else's clinic?**

You can choose to include your business name, the name of the clinic, or just include your practice address when you register a Wall license. The important thing is that you have obtained WL's for each of your practice locations in CA.

**3. Does my new wall license have to be renewed as it has an expiration date?**

The new Wall License shall be renewed every two years along with the licensee's acupuncture license, unless cancelled.

**4. Is the Wall License location address available to the public?**

The new Wall License will be displayed on the DCA License Verification search, providing more consumer awareness and tracking of all licensees' places of practice for public protection. You can access the License Verification search by following this link:

<https://search.dca.ca.gov/>

**5. What do I do with my old Wall License issued prior to January 1, 2021?**

Until the time of your 2022 renewal, you shall continue to display your current Wall License issued to you when you were initially licensed for compliance with BPC section 4961. Once you obtain the new Wall License with the unique WL number and renewal date, you can either take down your old Wall License or continue to display it in addition to your new Wall License.

**6. What do I do if I change practice locations and open a new place of practice prior to my next renewal date or have multiple locations?**

If a new place of practice is established prior to a licensee's next renewal date, then the licensee is required to register this new location within 30 days and apply for a new Wall License in the Connect online system, <https://connect.acupuncture.ca.gov/#/> or through the [Wall License Location Form](#). A Place of Practice Wall License is required for each place of practice in CA.

You can find links to the Connect system or license renewal forms on the Board's website, [www.acupuncture.ca.gov](http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov).

#### **7. What am I required to do with the new Wall License once it is issued?**

Once a licensee receives their new Wall License, they are required to post it in a conspicuous location in each place of practice at all times. The Wall License will have the same expiration date as the licensee's acupuncture (AC) license. If a new Wall License is issued between renewal periods, then the initial licensure period will be less than two years but shall be renewed every two years thereafter. Any Wall License issued to the licensee, must be renewed with their AC license using the Connect online system, <https://connect.acupuncture.ca.gov/#/>, or by using the [Wall License Location Form](#). Licensee can attest that they do not need to register or renew a WL if they no longer have a place of practice.

You can find links to the Connect system or license renewal forms on the Board's website, [www.acupuncture.ca.gov](http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov).

#### **8. How much is a Wall License?**

The fee for a new Wall License and renewal of a Wall License is \$50.00 per Wall License.

#### **9. What if I close my place of practice?**

If a licensee closes a place of practice or moves practice locations, they are required to cancel their Wall License in the Connect online system, <https://connect.acupuncture.ca.gov/#/> or with the [Wall License Location Form](#) within 30 days.

You can find links to the Connect system or license renewal forms on the Board's website, [www.acupuncture.ca.gov](http://www.acupuncture.ca.gov).

#### **10. What if I change practice locations?**

If a licensee opens a new place of practice, they are required to apply for a new Wall License issued to that location.

Wall Licenses are non-transferrable and cannot be taken from one location to another.

#### **11. Am I required to obtain a Wall License for out-of-office acupuncture visits at patient's homes, mobile locations, or temporary practice at events or doing telehealth?**

Wall License(s) are only required for permanent or regular places of practice in CA, which may include commercial or residential locations. A

place of practice is defined as an acupuncture office where any act of acupuncture is practiced and includes a place of practice in which the applicant holds a proprietary interest of any nature whatsoever or in which the licensee holds any right to participate in the management or control thereof.

A Wall License is not required to be posted when a licensee performs acupuncture treatments outside of the licensee's place of practice, e.g., acupuncture visits at patient's homes, mobile locations, telehealth and temporary practice locations at events, etc.

**Please refer to the Wall License law below where the provisions of Business and Professions Code section 4961 may be read in its entirety.**

**BPC §4961 Acupuncture: place of practice: wall license.**

(a) (1) Every person who is licensed to practice acupuncture in this state shall register, on forms prescribed by the board that may include an application for an initial license or for renewal of a license, each place of practice and apply to the board to obtain a wall license for each place of practice.

(2) A wall license shall be renewed biennially, coinciding with the license renewal date. A licensee with a wall license issued before January 1, 2021, shall not be required to apply for a new wall license until the licensee's next license renewal date.

(3) If the licensee has no place of practice, the licensee shall notify the board of that fact on a form prescribed by the board. A wall license is not required to be posted when a licensee performs acupuncture treatments outside of the licensee's place of practice. However, the licensee shall carry a pocket license during treatments outside of the licensee's place of practice and make the pocket license available upon request.

(4) A licensee shall register each place of practice within 30 days after the date of the licensee being licensed by the board or the establishment of a new place of practice, whichever occurs first.

(b) (1) An acupuncturist licensee shall post a wall license issued by the board to the licensee in a conspicuous location in each place of practice at all times.

(2) If an acupuncturist licensee has more than one place of practice, the licensee shall obtain from the board a separate wall license for each additional location and post the assigned wall license at each location.

(c) A licensed acupuncturist shall not display any acupuncture wall license that is not currently active and valid.

(d) (1) If a licensee changes the location of a place of practice, the licensee shall apply for the change of location within 30 days of changing the licensee's place of practice on forms prescribed by the board.

(2) If a licensee fails to apply for a new wall license with the board due to a change of location within the time prescribed by this subdivision, the board may deny renewal of the license.

(e) (1) A wall license is nontransferable.

(2) Any change to the registered location in connection with the wall license, such as moving, requires a new wall license, and the former wall license shall be returned to the board with a request for cancellation.

(3) The licensee shall apply to the board to obtain a new wall license using the forms prescribed by the board for the new wall license or change of location.

(f) (1) An acupuncturist shall be responsible for the acupuncture, Asian massage services, or any other practice specified under Section 4937 rendered pursuant to the license of the acupuncturist in each place of practice maintained by the acupuncturist.

(2) An acupuncturist maintaining more than one place of practice shall ensure that each place of practice is in compliance with the standards of practice requirements of this chapter.

(g) As used in this section:

(1) "Place of practice" means an acupuncture office where any act of acupuncture is practiced and includes a place of practice in which the applicant holds a proprietary interest of any nature whatsoever or in which the licensee holds any right to participate in the management or control thereof.

(2) "Wall license" means an official document that is issued by the board upon application for a place of practice and has a unique identification number that is specific to the location provided by the licensee in the application.

(h) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2021.

*(Repealed (in Sec. 1) and added by Stats. 2019, Ch. 308, Sec. 2. (AB 779) Effective January 1, 2020. Section operative January 1, 2021, by its own provisions.)*