

CNT when working in public health settings

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Public health settings

- Detox
- AIDS clinics
- TB clinics
- Institutions such as jails, public hospitals, community centers

The characteristics of public health settings

- Have group treatment rooms where several clients sit and receive ear or body acupuncture.
- Many of those rooms do not have a sink in them.
- Many of these settings aim at treating persons who are drug-and/or alcohol-addicted and who present with related and frequently multiple health and social problems such as TB, HIV infection, mental illness, homelessness, hunger or malnutrition, poverty, etc. these individuals frequently present with a long history of illness and a debilitated immune system.

Special requirement about CNT

- Handwashing

- Wash hands with soap and water before and after work shifts
- Wash hands with soap and water, or an alcohol-based or germicidal hand rub, immediately prior to performing any acupuncture.
- Wash hands with soap and water between treatments as often as possible. An alcohol-based hand rub, antiseptic towelette or a germicidal hand scrub should be used provided that only the needles, sterile packages and other materials needed for the treatment were touched.
- Wash hands immediately with soap and water after contact with blood or a break in the clean field between or during treatments.
- Wear gloves when there is a biohazardous spill.

- Choice of instrument
 - Disposable needles are recommended
- Positioning the patient
 - When the patient is sitting up, make sure that the patient is comfortable.
- Removing needles
 - It is critical to carry an impervious container so that the needles can be disposed of immediately.
 - Counting the needles used
 - Check chairs and surrounding areas for fallen needles before, during, and after each session.
 - Instruct clients not to handle needles if the needles fall out or after removing them.
 - Check for bleeding that may have occurred.