

Oregon Medical Board Rules
Division 71: Five-Needle Protocol
Effective March 1, 2026

847-071-0000

Purpose Statement

Five-needle protocol (5NP) represents a unique fusion of ancient Eastern healing practices with modern healing and social justice movements. In Oregon, 5NP is a standardized, supportive treatment for individuals experiencing substance use disorders, mental health conditions, and trauma. The five points are the shen men, sympathetic, liver, kidney and lung points on the human outer ear. The Oregon Medical Board is responsible for establishing training and registration requirements and regulating the practice of 5NP technicians in order to expand access to safe, standardized, low-barrier treatment in a manner that protects individuals in Oregon accessing 5NP treatments.

847-071-0005

Definitions

As used in division 71 rules regulating five-needle protocol:

(1) “Acupuncture” has the meaning given in ORS 677.757.

(2) “Board” means the Oregon Medical Board.

(3) “Five-needle protocol” or “5NP” has the meaning given in Oregon Laws 2025, chapter 296, section 2, the standardized five-needle treatment protocol in which five points on the human outer ear are stimulated with sterile, single-use disposable needles, ear seeds or ear beads for the purpose of achieving temporary relief from the symptoms of substance use disorder, mental health conditions or trauma. The five points are the shen men, sympathetic, liver, kidney and lung points.

(4) “5NP technician” means an individual registered by the Oregon Medical Board to provide five-needle protocol treatments in Oregon.

Statutory/Other Authority: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143), ORS 677.265

Statutes/Other Implemented: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143)

847-071-0007

Five-Needle Protocol Registration Required

(1) Except as provided in sections (2) and (3) of this rule, no person may provide five-needle protocol (5NP) treatment without first obtaining a registration from the Oregon Medical Board.

(2) An acupuncturist licensed under ORS 677.757 to 677.770 may provide 5NP treatment without additional 5NP registration.

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(3) A physician licensed to practice medicine as a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathic medicine pursuant to ORS Chapter 677 may provide 5NP treatment without additional 5NP registration.

Statutory/Other Authority: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143), ORS 677.265

Statutes/Other Implemented: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143)

847-071-0020

Qualifications

(1) An applicant for registration as a five-needle protocol (5NP) technician must:

(a) Be at least 18 years of age;

(b) Have successfully completed a training program as described in OAR 847-071-0025. If the program was completed more than ten years before the date of application the applicant must demonstrate current competency through relevant courses or 5NP treatments; and

(c) Have good moral character as those traits would relate to the applicant's ability to provide 5NP treatments. Substance use disorder in remission, mental health conditions, or other lived experiences alone are not a reflection of current moral character.

(2) Criminal history is not an automatic disqualification for registration. The Board evaluates each applicant's background and experience and will consider additional information provided by the applicant.

(3) No applicant is entitled to registration who:

(a) Has had a registration, license, or certificate in a health-related field revoked or suspended unless the registration, license, or certificate has been restored or reinstated and the applicant is in good standing in the state which previously revoked the registration, license, or certificate;

(b) Has been refused a registration, license, or certificate in a health-related field on any grounds other than failure of a licensure examination; or

(c) Has been guilty of conduct similar to that which would be prohibited by or to which ORS 677.190 would apply.

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Statutory/Other Authority: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143), ORS 677.265

Statutes/Other Implemented: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143)

847-071-0025

Five-Needle Protocol Training

(1) Before training five-needle protocol (5NP) technicians in Oregon, a 5NP trainer must:

(a) Request board approval by providing required documentation demonstrating qualifications under this section, and

(b) Meet one of the following requirements:

(A) Be an actively licensed Oregon acupuncturist or a physician licensed under ORS 677.100 to 677.133 who is in good standing with the Oregon Medical Board and has been practicing auricular acupuncture for a period of at least two years; or

(B) Hold active 5NP technician registration issued by the Oregon Medical Board for a minimum of two years and co-teach a minimum of two 5NP training programs described in section (2) of the rule. The 5NP trainer that co-taught must provide the Oregon Medical Board a letter of recommendation and evaluation of the individual seeking approval as a 5NP trainer; or

(C) Be an active National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) Registered Trainer or People's Organization of Community Acupuncture (POCA) Auricular Acu-Technician (AAT) Trainer.

(2) The 5NP training program must include at least 30 hours of didactic and 40 ears needled during supervised clinical training, mechanisms to monitor a participant's engagement, and contain the following elements:

(a) Sanitation and hygiene techniques,

(b) Infection control precaution procedures,

(c) Consent documentation and the individual's rights,

(d) Ear needling and point location,

(e) Plans to address potential risks, side effects, and complications,

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(f) Collaboration with other 5NP technicians, health care providers, and community resources,

(g) Trauma informed care,

(h) Origins of 5NP,

(i) Maintaining professional boundaries, and

(j) Reporting requirements.

(3) Training programs completed prior to the first adoption of this rule may be substantially similar to the requirements described in section (2) of this rule.

(4) A “5NP student” is an individual enrolled in a 5NP training program described in section (2) of this rule. This chapter does not prohibit a 5NP student from providing 5NP treatments rendered in the course of the training program.

Statutory/Other Authority: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143), ORS 677.265

Statutes/Other Implemented: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143)

847-071-0030

Application

(1) An application for registration as a five-needle protocol (5NP) technician may be accessed on the Board’s website.

(2) When applying for registration, the applicant must submit to the Board:

(a) A complete application provided by the Board,

(b) Registration and criminal records check fees as outlined in OAR 847-005-0005,

(c) National fingerprint-based background check as provided in OAR 847-008-0068, and

(d) The following documentation:

(A) Legal Name and Age: A copy of a birth certificate, state issued identification card, or other documentation as approved by the Board,

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(B) Five-Needle Protocol Training: A copy of a certificate showing completion of a training program as described in OAR 847-071-0025 and if applicable documentation to demonstrate current competency as described in OAR 847-071-0020(1)(b),

(C) Photograph: A close-up, passport-quality photograph, front view, head and shoulders (not profile), with features distinct, taken within 90 days preceding the filing of the application, and

(D) Verification of other Health-Related Registration, License, or Certificate: If requested by the Board, verification from all states or territories in which the applicant currently or previously held a health-related license, registration, or certification to practice and evidence that the applicant is in good standing and not subject to any disciplinary action or pending investigations in that state or territory.

(3) An applicant may submit additional information on their background and experience for consideration.

(4) Every applicant must complete an application and document evidence of qualifications listed in OAR 847-071-0020 to the satisfaction of the Board before an applicant may be considered eligible for registration.

(5) The Board may query the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) system during the application process.

(6) Omissions or providing false, misleading, incomplete, or deceptive statements or information on any Board application is grounds for denial of registration or disciplinary action by the Board.

(7) An application submitted with fees to the Board that is not complete within 90 days from application submission will expire.

(8) 5NP fees are not refundable and may not be credited toward other Board fees.

(9) An applicant whose application has been expired, withdrawn, or denied must submit a new application, documentation, and fees. While a new application and documentation is required, the Board may still consider information provided in previous applications.

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Statutory/Other Authority: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143), ORS 677.265

Statutes/Other Implemented: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143)

847-071-0035

Registration

(1) Upon Board approval of an application, the Board will issue a registration and post the five-needle protocol (5NP) technician's name, registration, and other applicable information on the Board's website.

(2) A 5NP technician must hold an active registration to provide 5NP treatments.

(3) Registration expires December 31 of odd-numbered years and may be renewed biennially by:

(a) Submitting a Board-required renewal application;

(b) Paying the registration fee outlined in OAR 847-005-0005;

(c) Completing at least one hour of courses per registration period related to 5NP treatment or pain management; and

(d) Completing at least one hour per year of cultural competency courses or experiences that apply linguistic skills, use cultural information for therapeutic relationships, or elicit understanding and apply cultural and ethnic data in the process of clinical care, as provided in OAR 950-040-0020 or approved by the Oregon Health Authority under ORS 413.450.

(4) Upon failure to renew under section (3) of this rule, the registration will lapse.

(a) A 5NP technician may not provide treatments under a lapsed registration.

(b) Lapse of a registration is not discipline.

(c) A lapsed registration must be renewed within 90 days, or the registration will expire.

(5) A 5NP technician must keep a current mailing address on file with the Board.

(6) A 5NP technician who voluntarily chooses to not provide 5NP treatments in Oregon must be listed as expired.

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(7) A 5NP technician with an expired registration must reapply by submitting a new application, documentation, and fees as outlined in OAR 847-005-0005.

(8) Failure to comply with laws and rules related to 5NP technicians may result in loss of registration.

Statutory/Other Authority: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143), ORS 677.265, ORS 676.850

Statutes/Other Implemented: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143), ORS 676.850, ORS 413.450

847-071-0040

Five-Needle Protocol Regulations

(1) Five-needle protocol (5NP) treatment must be practiced in accordance with Board rules and Oregon Laws 2025, chapter 296, section 2, including only:

(a) To provide temporary relief from the symptoms of substance use disorder, mental health conditions, or trauma; and

(b) Utilizing five ear points: shen men, sympathetic, liver, kidney, and lung points.

(2) A 5NP technician may not use the title “acupuncturist” or advertise or hold themselves out as being an acupuncturist or otherwise indicate they are authorized to practice acupuncture as defined in ORS 677.757.

(3) A 5NP technician must obtain written consent from the individual or the individual’s representative prior to providing treatment by:

(a) Clearly explaining the 5NP treatment, including needle placement, duration, and expected sensations;

(b) Discussing potential risks and realistic treatment outcomes;

(c) Respecting the individual’s right to decline treatment or withdraw consent at any time; and

(d) Having the individual self-identify the reason(s) for the 5NP treatment and date of treatment.

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(4) Written consent for a 5NP treatment must be retained for at least three years from date of treatment and provided to the individual or the individual's representative upon their request.

(5) For the individual and 5NP technician safety, a 5NP technician must:

- (a) Use only sterile, single-use disposable needles, ear seeds, or ear beads;
- (b) Adhere to sanitation and hygiene protocols;
- (c) Meet community standards of care; and
- (d) Establish clear procedures for handling complications or adverse reactions.

(6) A 5NP technician must set and maintain professional boundaries with all individuals receiving 5NP treatments and protect the individuals' privacy and dignity.

Statutory/Other Authority: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143), ORS 677.265,
Statutes/Other Implemented: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143), ORS 192.556

847-071-0050

Disciplinary Proceedings

(1) The Board may suspend or revoke the registration of a five-needle protocol (5NP) technician if the Board finds that the technician:

- (a) Represented themselves or allowed another person to represent them as a physician, acupuncturist, or other health care provider, unless the 5NP technician holds the appropriate license.
- (b) Performed any act other than 5NP which constitutes the practice of acupuncture in violation of ORS 677.759 or Oregon Laws 2025, chapter 296.
- (c) Engaged in conduct constituting gross or repeated negligence in providing 5NP treatments.
- (d) Is incompetent to provide 5NP treatments.
- (e) Violated any of the provisions of ORS 677.190 or OAR 847-071-0040.

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(2) Any Board investigation or disciplinary proceeding must be held in accordance with ORS Chapter 183, ORS 676.150 to 676.180, and ORS 677.184 to 677.228.

Statutory/Other Authority: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143), ORS 677.265

Statutes/Other Implemented: OL 2025, chapter 296, section 2 (HB 2143)

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847-005-0005

Licensure Fees

Relevant for 5NP Technicians, see [OAR 847-005-0005](#) for complete rule

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(5) Other Application or Licensing Fees:

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(d) Criminal Records Check Fee — \$52. Per ORS 181A.195(9)(e), fee is the actual cost of acquiring and furnishing criminal offender information.

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(9) Five-needle protocol (5NP) Technician Fees:

(a) Application & Registration — \$100.

(b) Renewal Registration: Active — \$50/year.

(c) 5NP applicants and technicians are exempt from fees outlined in other sections of this rule, except for the Criminal Records Check Fee in section (5)(d).

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 677.265, 181A.195, 431A.880 & 676.410

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 677.265, 181A.195, 431A.880, 676.410 & 677.290, Oregon Laws 2025, chapter 296, section 2