



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 engraved Wall License that was issued upon initial licensure before January 1, 2021?

The old Wall License does not have a practice location displayed on the license, nor does it have a renewal date, or a unique license number assigned to it. Its purpose is to show that a licensee was issued an acupuncture license by displaying it at a practice location, but does not indicate the licensee's current status, which can only be seen on a licensee's pocket license.

The new Wall License is issued to a specific place of practice, has a unique WL license number, and renewal date to indicate to the public the licensee has properly registered their place of practice with the Board. The new Wall License shall be renewed every two years along with the same renewal date as the licensee's acupuncture license. The new Wall License will display on the Board's license search, providing more consumer awareness and tracking of all licensees' places of practice for public protection.

In addition, if a new Wall License is lost or destroyed, a replacement Wall License will need to be requested, as duplicate licenses are no longer issued.

2. As an acupuncturist licensed prior to January 1, 2021, when do I need to obtain a new Wall License for my place(s) of practice in compliance with the new provisions of Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 4961?

A licensee with an acupuncture license issued prior to January 1, 2021, can wait until their next renewal date of their acupuncture license in the 2021 or 2022 calendar year to apply for a new Wall License for any existing place(s) of practice.

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

Until the time of your next 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.

4. When am I required to register my place(s) of practice and apply for a new Wall License as a new acupuncturist licensed after January 1, 2021?

A new licensee may register their place(s) of practice and apply for a Wall License for each upon applying for an initial license. No Wall License fee is required for the first Wall License when applied at the time of initial licensure.

If a new licensee does not have a place of practice, the licensee shall notify the Board in writing of that fact on the initial license application.

If a place of practice is established after initial licensure, the licensee is required to register each location and apply for a Wall License for each [online](#) or through the [Wall License Location Form](#) within 30 days of that change.

5. What do I do if I change practice locations and open a new place of practice prior to my next renewal date?

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 [online](#) or through the [Wall License Location Form](#).

6. 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 [online](#) or with the [Wall License Location Form](#), unless a licensee is renewing while on inactive status. Please refer to #10 for additional information on what to do with a Wall License when renewing on inactive status.

7. 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.

8. What if I close my place of practice or change practice locations?

If a licensee closes a place of practice or moves practice locations, they are required to cancel their Wall License [online](#) or with the [Wall License Location Form](#) within 30 days. The original Wall License must be returned to the Board. Wall Licenses are non-transferrable and cannot be taken from one location to another. If a licensee opens a new place of practice, they are required to apply for a new Wall License issued to that location.

9. What do I do with a Wall License when I request to go inactive?

Active licensees, with a current WL and who intend to apply for an inactive status, may request to cancel their Wall License. Requesting cancellation of any Wall License is an available option [online](#) or through the [Wall License Location Form](#).

10. Am I required to apply for a Wall License or renew a Wall License if I am on inactive status?

Licensees on inactive status are not eligible to practice acupuncture. Thus, inactive licensees are not required to apply, obtain and/or renew their Wall License. Licensees may choose to cancel their WL at the time of the activation of their inactive status. However, without an affirmative cancellation request, the existing Wall License will expire at their designated time or upon a later cancellation request, whichever event occurs first.

Please note that Wall Licenses for inactive licensees will not come up for renewal on its expiration date.

Finally, if an inactive licensee is restored to active status and resumes practice, any place(s) of practice shall be registered and a new WL will be issued at that time.

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 swap meets?

Wall License(s) are only required for permanent or regular places of practice, 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, and temporary practice locations at events or swap meets, 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.)