

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE  
STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS**

**LCB FILE NO. R138-18I**

**The following document is the initial draft regulation proposed  
by the agency submitted on 06/11/2018**

---

# Proposed New Regulation related to Dry Needling

## CHAPTER 640 - PHYSICAL THERAPISTS *AND PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS*

**Dry Needling Definition:** *Dry needling is a skilled technique performed by a physical therapist using filiform needles to penetrate the skin and/or underlying tissues to affect change in body structures and functions, for the evaluation and management of neuromusculoskeletal conditions, pain, movement, impairment and disability.*

*Professional Standards of Care and Training and Education Qualifications for Delivery of Dry Needling Skilled Intervention:*

*A. A physical therapist shall meet the qualifications established in subsection (C) before providing the skilled intervention “dry needling”.*

*B. DN does not include the stimulation of auricular points, sinus points or other non-local points to treat underlying organs. Dry needling shall be performed solely for conditions that fall under the physical therapy scope of practice. Each physical therapist performing dry needling shall perform dry needling only in the anatomical regions of training completed by the physical therapist. Each physical therapist who performs dry needling shall do so in a manner consistent with generally accepted physical therapy standards of practice.*

*C. Before engaging in dry needling, a physical therapist must submit documented proof of compliance with the qualifications listed in subsection (D) to the board.*

*Note to LCB drafter: please give all current dry needling practitioners 30 days to submit information to the Board.*

*D. Course content that meets the training and education qualifications for “dry needling” shall contain all of the following:*

*1. The course content shall be approved by one or more of the following entities prior to the course(s) being completed by the physical therapist.*

- a. Commission On Accreditation In Physical Therapy Education,*
- b. American Physical Therapy Association,*
- c. State Chapters Of The American Physical Therapy Association,*
- d. Specialty Groups Of The American Physical Therapy Association,*
- e. The Federation of State Boards Of Physical Therapy, or*
- f. The ACCC Committee of the Nevada Physical Therapy Board.*

*2. The course content shall include the following components of education and training:*

- a. Sterile needle procedures to include one of the following standards:*
    - i. The U.S. Centers For Disease Control And Prevention, or*
    - ii. The U.S. Occupational Safety And Health Administration*
  - b. Anatomical Review,*
  - c. Blood Borne Pathogens*
  - d. Contraindications and indications for “dry needling”,*
-

*E. The course content required in subsection (D) of this Section shall include, but is not limited to, passing of both a written examination and practical examination before completion of the course content. Practice application course content and examinations shall be done in person to meet the qualifications of subsection (D).*

*F. The standard of care for the intervention “dry needling” includes, but is not limited to the following:*

*a. “Dry needling” cannot be delegated to any assistive personnel, including physical therapist assistants or physical therapist technicians.*

*b. A physical therapist who performs “dry needling” shall obtain informed consent including written documentation from each patient who will receive “dry needling” before the physical therapist performs “dry needling” on that patient. The informed consent must be documented and shall include, at a minimum, a consent form that includes the following:*

*i. The patient’s signature;*

*ii. The risks and benefits “dry needling”;*

*iii. Definition of “dry needling” and description of treatment*

*Sample Consent Form Template*

---