

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE  
NEVADA PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD**

**LCB File No. R054-19**

September 24, 2019

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1-4, NRS 640.050, as amended by section 6 of Senate Bill No. 186, chapter 277, Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1586.

A REGULATION relating to physical therapists; prescribing the training required before a physical therapist is authorized to perform dry needling; prescribing standards of practice for dry needling; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law requires the Nevada Physical Therapy Board to prescribe by regulation the qualifications required for a physical therapist to perform dry needling. Those qualifications must include the completion of at least 150 hours of certain didactic education and training in dry needling. (NRS 640.050, as amended by section 6 of Senate Bill No. 186, chapter 277, Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1586) **Section 2** of this regulation prescribes the requirements for such didactic education and training.

Existing law requires the Board to prescribe by regulation: (1) procedures concerning the handling of needles used to perform dry needling; and (2) procedures to ensure that a physical therapist does not engage in needle retention. Existing law additionally authorizes the Board to adopt other reasonable regulations to carry out provisions of law governing physical therapy. (NRS 640.050, as amended by section 6 of Senate Bill No. 186, chapter 277, Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1586) **Section 3** of this regulation requires a physical therapist to obtain the informed consent of a patient before performing dry needling. **Section 3** also requires a physical therapist who performs dry needling to: (1) use only single-use, single-insertion needles; and (2) dispose of those needles after completing a portion of a procedure performed on a specific area of the body or, if the entire procedure is performed on one area of the body, the procedure. **Section 3** additionally prohibits a physical therapist from delegating the performance of dry needling to a person who is not authorized to perform dry needling.

**Section 1.** Chapter 640 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this regulation.

**Sec. 2. 1.** *Before performing dry needling, a physical therapist must submit to the Board written proof of successful completion of the didactic education and training in dry needling required pursuant to NRS 640.050, as amended by section 6 of Senate Bill No. 186, chapter 277, Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1586, and which meets the requirements set forth in this section.*

*2. The courses taken to satisfy the didactic education and training requirements must:*

*(a) Be approved by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, or its successor organization, the American Physical Therapy Association, or its successor organization, or the Nevada Physical Therapy Board;*

*(b) Include instruction concerning:*

*(1) The use of sterile needles in accordance with standards prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the United States Department of Labor;*

*(2) The aspects of human anatomy relevant to dry needling;*

*(3) Control of blood-borne pathogens; and*

*(4) Circumstances under which performing dry needling on a patient may or may not be appropriate;*

*(c) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d), be provided as part of a graduate-level program of study approved by the Board; and*

*(d) Include at least 25 hours of the didactic instruction and training provided through a postgraduate course of study that requires the successful completion of a written examination and a practical examination. Each part of the course, including, without limitation, each examination, must be completed in person.*

**Sec. 3. 1.** *Before performing dry needling, a physical therapist must obtain a signed form which provides informed consent from the patient. Such a form must include, without limitation:*

*(a) The definition of “dry needling” set forth in section 2 of Senate Bill No. 186, chapter 277, Statutes of Nevada 2019, at page 1585;*

*(b) A description of the particular treatment that will be provided and the risks and benefits of the treatment; and*

*(c) The signature of the patient.*

**2.** *A physical therapist who performs dry needling:*

*(a) Shall use only single-use, single-insertion sterile needles;*

*(b) Shall dispose of each needle after completing a portion of a procedure performed on a specific area of the body or, if the entire procedure is performed on one area of the body, after completing the procedure;*

*(c) Shall not delegate dry needling to a physical therapist assistant, student of physical therapy, physical therapist technician or other person who is not authorized to perform dry needling; and*

*(d) Shall ensure that the form described in subsection 1 is maintained as part of the health care records of the patient pursuant to NRS 629.051.*

**Sec. 4.** A physical therapist who wishes to perform dry needling after the effective date of this regulation shall submit proof of compliance with the requirements of section 2 of this regulation by not later than 30 days after the effective date of this regulation.