



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of  
ACUPUNCTURE *and* ORIENTAL MEDICINE

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To Whom It May Concern:

The American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (AAAOM) is the national association representing professional providers of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. Our mission is to promote excellence and integrity in the professional practice of acupuncture and Oriental medicine, in order to enhance public health and well-being.

The AAAOM works to protect the rights of acupuncturists to provide safe and effective acupuncture, and opposes state licensure and scope of practice laws that allow non-licensed practitioners to practice acupuncture.

According to our members, so-called “dry-needling” has infringed upon the rights of acupuncture practitioners in the states of Virginia and Colorado. We consider “dry-needling” to fall squarely within the range of acupuncturist practice. Moreover, as licensed acupuncturists typically receive at least 3000 hours of education, the 54 hour course that allows physical therapists to use needles on patients is not only insufficient, but constitutes a public health hazard.

Physical therapists are prohibited from using “dry needling” in California, Hawaii, New York, North Carolina and Tennessee. In addition, the state of Florida disallows physical therapists from using any technique which ruptures the skin.

In California, physical therapists recognize that invasive procedures clearly move beyond the scope and training of physical therapy and in some instances hire licensed acupuncturists to treat patients. Many physical therapists respect the fact that use of needles is both an invasive procedure beyond the professional scope of physical therapy and directly related to the practice of acupuncture.

According to Ben Massey Jr., PT, MA, the Executive Director of the North Carolina Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, “Dry needling is a form of acupuncture. In North Carolina, a practitioner who performs acupuncture must have a license from the North Carolina Board of Acupuncture.”

The good of the public trust requires laws that afford professional respect for the purviews of various health-care practices. The AAAOM opposes the use of “dry-

needling” by physical therapists in Colorado and elsewhere in the United States. We urge the governing bodies that oversee health-care laws in Colorado to respect the scope of practice earned by licensed acupuncturists and bar physical therapists from invasive practices beyond their training.

Join the other states that have already recognized that orderly distinctions among health-care professions ultimately protect public health and safety.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie McGee". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Leslie McGee, President, AAAOM

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Herbkersman". The signature is highly stylized and cursive.

Martin Herbkersman, Vice President, AAAOM