

Dear Legislator,

As you may be aware, in several states physical therapists (PT), chiropractors and medical assistants are using “dry needling” under their professional license. In at least 2 states in our region (WA and OR), the legislative boards have tried this issue and found that “dry needling” is not under the scope of a PT, as the training and safety guidelines are not present as they are for an LAc (licensed acupuncturist).

This is due to the fact that dry needling is indistinguishable from acupuncture. To receive a license to practice acupuncture, one must complete rigorous training, testing and licensing to ensure the safety and efficacy of the acupuncture provided. As an LAc in the state of ID, I am completely against dry needling being performed by non LAc or Cac. Due to documented cases of patients receiving unsafe acupuncture from a PT – the results lead to patients requiring emergency care, surgery and/or long-term therapy to recover from improper acupuncture from an untrained practitioner. The American Academy of Medical Acupuncture (AAMA), a subset of the AMA, agrees with me in this matter (please see the letter found at: <http://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2015-2016/Economic-Affairs/Meetings/Aug-Sept-2015/DryNeedlingPolicyAAMA.pdf>)

Thank you for your consideration in this serious matter.

Most Sincerely,

Meggan Baumgartner, MAcOM, LAc, Dipl.OM  
Nationally Board Certified in Acupuncture and Chinese herbs  
Secretary of the Idaho Acupuncture Association  
Certified Qigong Teacher  
[www.healingpt.com](http://www.healingpt.com)