

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED AMENDMENT
TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
CHAPTER 490-9, CODE OF ETHICS, RULE 490-9-.05, DRY NEEDLING, AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy (hereinafter "Board") proposes an amendment to Rule Chapter 490-9, Code Of Ethics, Rule 490-9-.05, Dry Needling (hereinafter "proposed rule amendment").

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment, is being disseminated to all persons who have requested, in writing, that they be placed on a distribution list. A copy of this notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendment, and a synopsis of the proposed rule amendment may be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. These documents will also be available for review on the Board website <http://sos.ga.gov/index.php/licensing/plb/39> , or by contacting the Board office at 478-207-2440.

A public hearing is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on November 15, 2016, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217 to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment.

At the public hearing anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements should be concise and will be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Written comments are welcomed. Such written comments must be legible and signed, should contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number and/or facsimile number, etc.) and be actually received in the office prior to the close of business (5:00 p.m. EDT) on November 8, 2016. Written comments should be addressed to Lisa W. Durden, Director, Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217; Fax (866) 888-1308.

The Board will consider the proposed rule amendment for adoption at its meeting scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on November 15, 2016 at the Georgia Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. According to the Department of Law, State of Georgia, the Board has the authority to adopt proposed rule amendment to 490-2-.03 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-11, 43-33-14, 43-33-15 and 43-33-18.

At its meeting May 26, 2016, the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-11, 43-33-14, 43-33-15 and 43-33-18.

Additionally, at its meeting May 26, 2016, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-11, 43-33-14, 43-33-15 and 43-33-18 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of physical therapy.

For further information, contact the Board office at (478) 207-2440.

This notice is given in compliance with Section 4(a)(1) of the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act (O.C.G.A. §50-13-4).

This 7 day of September 2016.



Lisa W. Durden
Director
Professional Licensing Boards

Posted: 7 SEPT 16

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF
PHYSICAL THERAPY RULE FOR CHAPTER 490-9, CODE OF ETHICS, RULE 490-9-
.05, DRY NEEDLING.**

Purpose: The purpose of this rule amendment is to further clarify the requirements for a physical therapist to perform the technique of dry needling.

Main Features: The amendments further clarify that a physical therapist must submit a complete Application for Approval to Perform Dry Needling along with the applicable fee in order to be considered for approval to perform the technique of dry needling. Additional language was inserted to clarify the total number of hours and the time frame that the specialized course work needs to be completed and the consequences if the specialized course work is not completed within the specified time frames.

**DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EXISTING RULE AND THE PROPOSED
AMENDMENTS TO THE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY
RULE FOR CHAPTER 490-9, CODE OF ETHICS, RULE 490-9-.05, DRY NEEDLING.**

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling

(A) It shall be unprofessional and unethical conduct for a physical therapist to perform the technique of dry needling without Board approval.

(B) Dry needling must be directly performed by a licensed physical therapist that is specifically trained and competent by virtue of education and training to perform dry needling. **Online study for dry needling instruction is not considered appropriate training.**

(a)(C) Effective September 1, ~~2012~~2016, physical therapists must meet the following requirements in order to be approved by the Board to perform dry needling: a physical therapist must submit a complete 'Application for Approval to Perform Dry Needling' along with the applicable fee, proof of education in the OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standard and at least one of the following:

1. Graduation from an entry-level physical therapy program that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and competency assessment and achievement in its curriculum; or
2. Graduation from a post-graduate credentialed residency or fellowship program of study that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and competency assessment and achievement in its curriculum; or
3. Documented successful completion of a didactic dry needling course of study consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and a competency assessment ~~and of~~ achievement in its curriculum.

(4). A licensed physical therapist who has successfully completed a minimum of 20 hours of specialized coursework in dry needling may utilize the skills learned in the completed coursework for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months provided that:

(i). The physical therapist completes the remaining coursework to total 50 hours within twelve (12) months of having achieved 20 hours of specialized coursework; and,

(ii). The physical therapist's practice is strictly limited to skills and body areas studied in the completed coursework.

(iii). If the physical therapist does not complete all 50 hours within twelve (12) months of having achieved the initial 20 hours of specialized coursework, he or she must cease the practice of dry needling.

(D). Upon satisfying the application requirements and being granted approval by the Board to perform dry needling, the applicant will be notified and the dry needling designation will be placed on the license.

(bE). Provided, however, that physical therapists who have at least two years of experience in the clinical practice of dry needling as of September 1, ~~2012~~2016, have until the end of the current biennium on December 31, ~~2013~~2017, to submit a complete application and meet the requirements in subsection ~~(a)(1)-(3)(C)(1)-(4)~~, in order to be granted approval to perform dry needling and receive the designation on the license.

(F). Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-33-18(a)(2)(E), a physical therapist may not perform dry needling treatment interventions without consulting an individual license pursuant to Article 2 or 4 of Chapter 34 of Title 43.

Authority: O.C.G.A. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-11, 43-33-14, 43-33-15 and 43-33-18.

Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling

(A) It shall be unprofessional and unethical conduct for a physical therapist to perform the technique of dry needling without Board approval.

(B) Dry needling must be directly performed by a licensed physical therapist that is specifically trained and competent by virtue of education and training to perform dry needling. **Online study for dry needling instruction is not considered appropriate training.**

(C) **Effective September 1, 2016**, in order to be approved by the Board to perform dry needling: a physical therapist must submit a complete 'Application for Approval to Perform Dry Needling' along with the applicable fee, proof of education in the OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standard and at least one of the following:

1. Graduation from an entry-level physical therapy program that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and competency assessment and achievement in its curriculum; or

2. Graduation from a post-graduate credentialed residency or fellowship program of study that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and competency assessment and achievement in its curriculum; or

3. Documented successful completion of a didactic dry needling course of study consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and a competency assessment of achievement in its curriculum.

(4). A licensed physical therapist who has successfully completed a minimum of 20 hours of specialized coursework in dry needling may utilize the skills learned in the completed coursework for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months provided that:

(i). The physical therapist completes the remaining coursework to total 50 hours within twelve (12) months of having achieved 20 hours of specialized coursework; and,

(ii). The physical therapist's practice is strictly limited to skills and body areas studied in the completed coursework.

(iii). If the physical therapist does not complete all 50 hours within twelve (12) months of having achieved the initial 20 hours of specialized coursework, he or she must cease the practice of dry needling.

(D). Upon satisfying the application requirements and being granted approval by the Board to perform dry needling, the applicant will be notified and the dry needling designation will be placed on the license.

(E). Provided, however, that physical therapists who have at least two years of experience in the clinical practice of dry needling as of September 1, 2016, have until the end of the current biennium on December 31, 2017, to submit a complete application and meet the requirements in subsection (C)(1)-(4), in order to be granted approval to perform dry needling and receive the designation on the license.

(F). Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-33-18(a)(2)(E), a physical therapist may not perform dry needling treatment interventions without consulting an individual license pursuant to Article 2 or 4 of Chapter 34 of Title 43.

Authority: O.C.G.A. 43-1-19, 43-1-24, 43-1-25, 43-33-3, 43-33-10, 43-33-11, 43-33-14, 43-33-15 and 43-33-18.