

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
**Teleconference Minutes**  
**May 26, 2016 - 8:30 a.m.**

The Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy met on Thursday, May 26, 2016. The following members were present:

**Board Members Present**

Stefanie Palma, PT, Chairperson  
Dorothy Gaskin, PT – Vice Chair  
Monty Strickland, PT  
Emily Garner, PT  
Chad Whitefield, PTA  
Jesse Crews, Consumer Member

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist  
Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor

**Attorney General's Office**

D. Williams-McNeely, Senior Assistant Attorney General

**Board Members Absent**

Reid Lawson, PT  
Charles Bass, PT

**Visitors Present**

None.

**Call to Order:** Dr. Palma established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda**           The Board accepts the agenda as presented.

**Discussion – Board Rule 490-9-.05 Dry Needling**

Mr. Strickland motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to refer the proposed amendment to Board Rule 490-4-.05 to the Attorney General's Office for a memorandum of authority and if no objections noted, vote to post.

**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.](#)

~~(b)~~ [\(E\). Provided, however, that physical therapists who have at least two years of experience in the clinical practice of dry needling as of September 1, 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 licensed pursuant to Article 2 or 4 of Chapter 34 of Title 43.

**Cite as Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R. 490-9-.05**

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

**History.** Original Rule entitled "Dry Needling" adopted. F. Mar. 21, 2012; eff. Apr. 10, 2012.

The Board discussed the economic impact of Board Rule 490-9-.05 upon the licensee, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion 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.

Mr. Strickland motioned, Mr. Whitefield seconded and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-24A-19(2), and 43-24A-3(4) 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.

**Adjournment:** There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41a.m.

**Minutes recorded by:**

Tamara Elliott, Board Support Specialist

**Minutes reviewed and edited by:**

Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor & Adrienne Price, Executive Director

**Minutes approved on:**

July 19, 2016

STEFANIE PALMA  
**BOARD CHAIR**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**