

**GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

**Rules Committee Minutes**

**Teleconference Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 8, 2016 - 08:30 a.m.**

**Board Members Via Teleconference**

Dorothy Gaskin, Vice Chairperson  
Monty Strickland, Board Member  
Reid Lawson, Board Member

**Administrative Staff Present**

Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
Kathy Osier, Licensure Supervisor  
Michelle Foster, Board Support Specialist

**Attorney General's Office Teleconference**

D. Williams McNeely, Senior Assistant Attorney General

**Visitors Present**

No visitors present

**Call to Order:** Ms. Gaskin established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:33a.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

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

The Committee reviewed and discussed correspondence from Joe Donnelly of PTAG, Leslie Adrian of FSBPT and numerous written comments that were received from the public (see attached listing) regarding the proposed amendment to Board Rule 490-9-.05 that was originally scheduled for hearing during the November 15, 2016. The Committee also reviewed the recent statement from AMA Board Member, Russell W. H. Kridel, M.D, in which he stated that practitioners of dry needling at a minimum should meet standards required for licensed acupuncturists and physicians. Based upon the review, the Committee made the following determinations:

- 1) The Board has not received any data relevant to physical therapists who perform dry needling which supports Dr. Kridel's position;
- 2) A physical therapist's comprehensive education and training, particularly from an anatomical, physiological, and biological standpoint, along with the current requirements for additional training specific to dry needling makes them qualified to perform the technique with reasonable skill and safety; and,
- 3) It is a matter of public protection for the Board to have record of the qualifications, training, certification and continuing education of physical therapists who are or have the ability to practice dry needling in the state of Georgia.

Based upon these three determinations, the Committee recommends that the Board consider posting the following proposed amendments to Board Rule 490-4-.05 for a hearing:

**Rule 490-9-.05. Dry Needling**

(1) Dry needling is a skilled technique performed by a physical therapist using filiform needles to penetrate the skin and underlying tissues to affect change in body structures and functions for the evaluation and management of neuromusculoskeletal conditions, pain, movement impairments, and disability for preventative and therapeutic purposes.

(2) Dry needling must be ~~directly~~ performed by a licensed physical therapist who:

(a) Has consulted with an individual licensed pursuant to Article 2 or 4 of Chapter 34 of Title 43; and,

(b) ~~that i~~s specifically trained and competent by virtue of education and training to perform dry needling. **Online study for dry needling instruction is will not be accepted as a demonstration of competence and training considered appropriate training**

(3) A physical therapist has demonstrated specific and competent education and training when the licensee has submitted the following documentation to the Board:

~~(a) Effective September 1, 2012, physical therapists must meet the following requirements in order to perform dry needling: p~~Proof of education in the OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens Standard; and,

~~(b) a~~At least one of the following:

1. ~~Proof of G~~graduation from an entry-level physical therapy program that included dry needling instruction consisting of a minimum of 50 hours total and ~~a~~ competency assessment ~~and of~~ achievement in its curriculum; or
2. ~~Proof of G~~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 ~~a~~ competency assessment ~~and of~~ achievement in its curriculum; or
3. ~~Proof of D~~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.

~~(b) 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, have until the end of the current biennium on December 31, 2013, to meet the requirements in subsection (a)(1)-(3), in order to perform dry needling.~~  
(4) Effective January 1, 2018, to perform dry needling in the state of Georgia licensed physical therapists and physical therapists applying for licensure must submit documentation of dry needling education and training into the online recording and reporting system approved by the Board.

(a) For the purposes of this requirement, the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy adopts the utilization of aPTitude offered by the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy (FSBPT).

(b) Licensees and applicants shall incur no additional costs from the FSBPT for this service.

(c) Every licensee or applicant subject to the rules of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy shall be deemed to have given such person's consent to the Board and its representatives to access their record retained within the online database for the purposes of auditing and verifying completion of the requirements for dry needling. Such person waives all objections to the admissibility of the record in any proceedings or hearings before the board.

(5) Upon substantiating that a physical therapist meets the criteria to perform dry needling, the licensee will receive notice of approval by the Board to perform the technique.

(6) Each biennium, physical therapists who meet the requirements to perform dry needling must enter a minimum of two (2) hours of continuing education relevant to OSHA Blood Borne Pathogens into the online recording and reporting system approved by the Board. The hours obtained may be applied towards the thirty (30) hours of continuing competence required per biennium provided that the licensee has satisfied the Georgia ethics and jurisprudence requirement.

(7) At the time of license renewal, each licensed physical therapist approved to perform dry needling shall attest that he or she is qualified to practice dry needling in the state of Georgia in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy.

(8) A violation of the provisions outlined in this Board rule or a false attestation on the renewal application is grounds for disciplinary action as determined by the Board.

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.

#### **Written Comments Received**

Please see attached list.

#### **Public Comments Received**

No public comments received.

**Discussion – BR 490-2-.09 Sandy Eskew Capps, PT, DPT, MHEd**

The Committee reviewed and discussed the correspondence submitted by Sandy Eskew Capps regarding the proposed revision to Board Rule 490-2-09 Licensure: Endorsement. The Committee stated that the proposed amendments made to Board Rule 490-2-.09 further clarify that applicants by endorsement must submit verification of an active license in good standing, not just a list of states where the applicant holds a license. Additional language was inserted to clarify that the endorsement applicant must also verify active practice and not just attest to having actively practiced in two years immediately preceding the date of the application. The proposed amendments do not imply that applicants by endorsement are required to submit additional license verification as the endorsement application currently requires verification of licensure from every state where the applicant has held a license. The proposed amendment simply clarifies the language in the Board Rule. As is presently the case, if an applicant is unable to provide license verification from any state or territory, the applicant will need to submit a petition for rule waiver or variance to be reviewed by the full Board on a case-by-case basis.

The Committee further discussed the economic impact and determined that the economic impact of the rule amendment is no different than that which is already in place to include the cost of obtaining the verifications and any potential delay in gaining licensure as a result of waiting to receive the verifications. The Committee agreed that the verifications are necessary in order to ensure that applicants do not have any actions against their licenses in other states that may affect their ability to practice in this state with reasonable skill and safety. The Committee recommends that the proposed amendments made to Board Rule 490-2-.09 remain and to notify Ms. Capps of the outcome.

Monty Strickland left the teleconference at 9:28 a.m.

**Discussion – Policy 17 – Brenau College and University of North Georgia**

The Committee reviewed the petition to waive Policy 17 for Brenau College and the University of North Georgia. The Committee considered whether or not the request to allow a licensed physical therapist to supervise 4-6 DPT students was feasible and if it was acceptable practice to decrease the standard because the DPT students were being utilized in clinics who serve the underinsured or uninsured populations in our state. Mr. Lawson shared with the committee that the Board did research and polled other states before the implementation of Policy 17 to determine an appropriate number of supportive clinicians that a licensed physical therapist may supervise.

Based upon the review and discussion, the Committee recommends that the Board deny the petition to waive Policy 17.

**Adjournment:** With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Michelle Foster, Board Support Specialist  
**Minutes reviewed and edited by:** Kathy Osier, Licensing Supervisor and Adrienne Price, Executive Director  
**Minutes Approved on:** November 15, 2016

DOROTHY GASKIN  
**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

ADRIENNE PRICE  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## **Public Comments**

Alex Chun  
Alexander Jude Roman  
Alexandra Matthews  
Alise Beccaria  
Alva Hartry  
Amina Dande  
Amy Mager  
Anthony Pope  
Ash Goddard  
Azure Duan L.Ac., D.O.M., PhD  
Bodannielle Park  
Cali China  
Carrie E. Rhorson  
Chiuying Ko  
David Miller  
David Mills  
Denira Beers  
Diane Ferrara  
Dr. Michael Dellaria  
Ellen Roll  
Ellen Roll  
Elysia Greenlee  
GAAAM  
Holly McPherson  
Huan Wen  
Hui Wang  
Huiling Tang  
J. C. Schachner  
J. Cameron Hollister  
James W. Cotton  
Jie Wang  
Jitao Bai  
John Downey  
Karen Lang, L.Ac.  
Karen Thomas, Psy. D.  
Leena Cook  
Li Du  
Li Jiang, L.Ac.  
Lily Li  
Lisa Adrian, FSBPT  
Mey Kang  
Mike Furtadd  
Noellemarie Barrera, D.O.  
Petrus Minyadi  
Robyn Moore

## **Dry Needling**

Anand C. deVark  
Bauer Coslick, L.Ac.  
Bob Jeffery, MBA  
Bob Jeffrey  
Brenda Prado  
Caruute Zakas  
Cassandra Elder  
Cassandra Elder  
Cassandra Rossi  
Chuantang Lia  
Darren Volk, PT  
Ellie Mitts  
Frank Ko  
Giovanni Elmore  
Herb Silver, PT  
James W. Cotton  
Jennifer Lynch  
Jennifer Rafus, FNP, Lic. Ac.  
Jim Hlavacek  
JK DeLapp, L.Ac., Dip OM  
Jonathan C. Smale  
Joshua Saul, L.Ac.  
Joshua Saul, L.Ac.  
Joye Lamberson  
Karen Rent  
Kathy Travis  
Kerri Winston, PhD, L.Ac.  
Krysty Kearny  
Lepily Un  
Li Liu, L.Ac.  
Mark Swartz, L.Ac. FABORM, Dipl. O.M.  
Marvin Morrison  
Mauren Grady Morales  
Mela Rezaudio  
Melinda Roan-Seamans  
Nicole Arabie  
Nicole Ware L.Ac.  
Noella Fernandez  
North Carolina Acupuncture Society  
Pat Brandon, D.C.  
R. Scott Jerger  
Rawls Whittlesey, L.Ac.  
Ruth Anne Wyble  
S. Beardsley  
Shuang Chang, Ph.D.

## **BR. 490-4-.05**

Alan Ranaudia  
Ann Burkly  
Anthony Pope  
Beverly Oldham  
Blondine Dieujiste  
Chiuying Ko  
Chrystal Hill  
Colcen M. Poiries  
Cournelle Coiare  
Danielle Young  
Darrell Muir  
David Brunke  
David White  
Deborah Solomon  
Debra Adams  
Frue Neal  
Hana Boyton  
Hsienli Ko  
Jangley S.  
Jaqueline  
Jenny Highes  
Juan Yang Sun  
Katherine Jiang  
Kelly Litty  
Kyanda Williams  
Larisa Humphy  
Lauren turner  
Laurie Puguello  
Lean Espinox  
Lisa McClinton  
Lyn Velia  
M. Bedingfield  
M. Mitchell  
Marsha Daboub  
Maureen Grady Morales  
Mike Furtadd  
Oihung Lih  
Pam Mason  
Pat Brandon  
Patrice Muir  
Richard Messer  
Rosangela Sitz  
Roslyn Woody  
S.C. Hay  
Sandra Hodge-Hampton

S. C. Hay  
Christine Scheurer L.Ac.  
Stephanie Rooney  
Susan O'Neill  
Tony Piao  
Tracy Robeys  
Valerie Hobbs  
Vicky Blackmon  
Warren Cargel  
Wendy Phillips  
Xilan Zong  
Yifan Liu

Sonya Waddell  
Suang Chang  
Susan Mosley, LAc, Dipl.C.H, CPT  
Susan O'Neil  
Timothy Eng  
Tracie Reid  
Wenshend Peng  
Xiang Li L.Ac.  
Yiming Lin  
Yong Li  
Yong Q. Luo, L.Ac.  
Yoong S. Kim  
Yvonne

Sarah Prater, L.Ac.  
Sarah Schooler  
Shannane Williams  
Shirley Baume  
Sonya Richards  
Sue Winkler  
Tereza Lauren  
Tricia Tripp  
Vicky Wollack  
Whitney Colcard  
Yuan Yuan Tu  
Zaspa Kings