

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

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Access to dry needling equips qualified and well-trained Physical Therapists with an effective tool to address musculoskeletal dysfunction and motor recruitment impairments. Claims that this practice competes with alternative medicine services, such as acupuncture, are not only misleading but also irrelevant. Overlap in healthcare services is common across many disciplines, each fulfilling a distinct role within the broader scope of patient care.

For example, the fact that Chiropractors perform spinal manipulations does not preclude Physical Therapists from providing joint mobilizations or spinal interventions. Likewise, the treatment of conditions like plantar fasciitis, posterior tibial tendinopathy, or Achilles injuries does not fall exclusively within the purview of Podiatrists. Physical Therapists, alongside orthopedic specialists, possess some of the most comprehensive training in human anatomy. When implemented with proper education, clinical supervision, and evidence-based techniques, dry needling is a safe and effective intervention that enhances therapeutic outcomes while reducing physical strain on both patients and clinicians.

The vast majority of states have recognized the value of this intervention by supporting its inclusion in the Physical Therapy scope of practice. It is time for Oregon to do the same and align with the national standard.