



Michael L. Parson
Governor
State of Missouri

Sheila Solon, Division Director
DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Missouri Department of
Commerce & Insurance
Chlora Lindley-Myers, Director

STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

3605 Missouri Boulevard P.O. Box 672
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0672
573-751-2104
573-751-0735 FAX
800-735-2966 TTY Relay Missouri
800-735-2466 Voice Relay Missouri

Gloria Lindsey
Executive Director
chiropractic@pr.mo.gov
pr.mo.gov/chiropractors

DRY NEEDLING REGULATION DISCLAIMER

The Missouri Division of Professional Registration, the Board for Chiropractic Examiners (Board) has received inquiries regarding the regulation of the practice of “dry needling.” The Board appreciates the concerns for public safety in the practice of the “dry needling” procedure.

To address these inquiries the Board previously determined that an interim solution for a Missouri Licensed Chiropractic Physician to perform the “dry needling” procedure, was to require the Meridian Therapy/Acupressure/Acupuncture (MTAA) certification as set forth in Board rule 20 CSR 2070-2.031. Although the Board recognizes the potential for public safety issues, the Board has not been given specific statutory authority to regulate this specific technique practice.

After extensive research of the facts, national best practices and collaboration with all key stakeholders including state and national organizations, the Board has concluded to remove the temporary MTAA certification requirement for Missouri Chiropractic Physicians to perform “dry needling”. Following its additional review and taking into consideration the input received from stakeholders, the Board’s determination is that “dry needling” is within the current scope of practice for Missouri Chiropractic Examiners as an available modality to treat patients’ pain using the principle of Myofascial trigger points. Myofascial trigger points and the recent addition of “dry needling” (as a new modality to utilize Myofascial trigger points) are commonly taught in Chiropractic Universities, thus aligning the modality with Statute 331.010 and bringing it within the scope of practice for Missouri Chiropractors.

Chiropractic Physicians licensed by the Board, who offer the “dry needling” modality, must comply with licensing, safety, sanitation, and education requirements of Chapter 334 and 331 of the Missouri Revised Statutes and of 20 CSR Division 2070 Code of State Regulations as such relates to their licensed profession as a Missouri Chiropractic Physician. The Board recommends that Missouri Chiropractic Physicians who utilize “dry needling” be trained in the modality and in the essential safety and sterile-disposable needle requirements, which are essential for safe use of this modality. However, the “dry needling” modality, itself, is not subject to the statutes and regulations enforceable through this Board except to the extent addressed herein.

For further details, please contact the Missouri Chiropractic Physicians Association and/or the American Chiropractic Association.

Please note that the information contained herein does not constitute legal advice from the Board or its attorneys. This information is provided for general guidance only relating to the subject matter covered, and by providing this guidance the Board disclaims any intent to provide any advice or recommendations of a legal, chiropractic, medical, accounting, or other professional nature. Individual practitioners engaged in, or wishing to engage in this modality are strongly encouraged to consult their own attorneys for clarification of any remaining questions not addressed in this statement.

Revised: 6/27/2024